

**Minutes  
City of New Orleans  
Human Relations Commission  
4:00 PM Thursday, December 8, 2011  
Temple Sinai  
6227 St. Charles Ave.**

**Present:** Aqeel Abdul-Salaam, Therese Badon, Larry Bagneris Jr., Marc Behar, Rabbi Edward Cohn, Anita Curran (Legal Counsel), Joe Halm, Georgette Ioup, Stephany Lyman, Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Craig Stewart.

**Absent:** Michie Bissell, Beverly Greenwood, Martin Gutierrez, Rev. Douglas M. Haywood, Johnny Messinger, Jane Parker, Jamie Tran, Jenny Yanez.

**I. Call to Order by Vice Chairman Therese Badon at 4:15 p.m.**

- II. Review of the minutes from previous meetings** – The minutes were reviewed. Badon motioned and Sams-Abiodun seconded to approve the October and November meeting minutes as presented. They were approved by a 9-0 vote.

**III. Address from The Honorable James Carter, Director of Criminal Justice on the death of African American males in overwhelming numbers since Katrina.**

James Carter held a 40-minute discuss with HRC members about how the commissioners thought the HRC could help stop the tide of African-American on African-American violence in the city. Several HRC members provided comments. Badon said the amount of single parent homes, which leads to children not getting the proper supervision, is an issue along with poverty.

Carter said it is caused by a number of different issues although it is not limited to poverty. Ioup asked the African-American men in the room how they avoided the violence. Bagneris said his parents' discipline was a big factor. Carter said his parents were the ones who helped him become a successful person. Carter said the demographics of those individuals conducting most of the violence activities are African-American male, victims are usually 28 years of age or younger, the criminals are usually 23 years of age or younger, 55 percent are unemployed, 83 percent have criminal records, 73 percent of the victims have criminal records.

Stewart said many people don't have trust in the police department. He said he has heard or seen stories of police planting drugs on people including many African-Americans. He said it is a very multi-sided issue. Abdul-Salaam said he believes African-American crimes make up a proportionate number of all crimes based on population, although violence has been a problem for decades. Sams-Abiodun said she thinks that there are certain attitudes and behaviors that young African-Americans have that are detrimental to their success. She said guiding those young men to making better decisions is important, and she asked what role the HRC and the city could have in this process.

Carter asked the HRC to join the mayor's Community Service Provider Action Team, which is a part of the Mayor's Strategic Command to Reduce Homicides. The Command takes various groups within the

city and brings them together to find evidence-based information to help find a way to provide opportunities to stop the violence. Bagneris and the HRC agreed to join the board, and two HRC representatives will be announced at the next meeting.

#### **IV. Executive Director's Report**

##### **a. Women with a Vision and the Anti-Violence GLBTQ Youth**

Bagneris said he met with the group that is mentoring GLBTQ youth, and he wanted to report that back to the group.

##### **b. Ronnie Seaton and New Orleans Housing Authority**

Seaton is a disabled veteran who is living in a neighborhood with a significant number of Section 8 Housing, and his neighbors are parking illegally on the sidewalk. Bagneris connected Seaton with HANO officials to remedy his issue.

##### **c. 20 Years of Equality/New Orleans Human Rights Ordinance**

Bagneris invited the HRC to a celebration of the Human Rights Ordinance that was held on Monday, Dec. 12 at the Arthur Roger Gallery.

##### **d. INGLO-Houston, Texas**

Bagneris said he attended the event, which was interesting because Houston's mayor is openly gay, but the city of Houston does not acknowledge domestic partnerships.

##### **e. Mindy Milam/Stop Youth Murders'**

Bagneris said he has been searching for months for a way to address youth and violence, and he hopes that the Victory over Violence movement could be the answer. He encouraged HRC members to attend the event's opening ceremony, which was Saturday, Jan. 7 at 11 a.m.

##### **f. The New/New Orleans of 2012**

Bagneris said he submitted a plan for a proposed diversity celebration in May in Congo Square. All of the HRC members received a copy of his proposal letter, and it is attached to the minutes.

#### **V. Remarks by the Chairperson Jane Parker – Chairperson was absent so there was no report.**

#### **VI. Unfinished Business – None.**

#### **VII. New Business – None.**

#### **VIII. Announcements**

Bagneris said Michie Bissell has resigned from the board due to increased time commitments.

#### **IX. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Joe Halm, Secretary*