

Human Relations Commission

City of New Orleans

Public Meeting Notice

April 13, 2016

Mitchell J. Landrieu,

Mayor

Lawrence G. Bagneris,

Executive Director

**Meetings take place in the Library Conference Room of Temple Sinai,
6227 St. Charles Avenue at 4:15 PM.**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order. Introductions.**
- II. Review of March minutes.**
- III. Executive Director's Report:**
 - a. The HRC Report celebrating the work of Lighthouse Louisiana and the work of the MAC. Salute to the Hispanic Community and 'Que pasa?'**
 - b. Reviews of HR Commissioners who wish to renew their Board membership on the HRC.**
 - c. Report on the case of Goodreaux v Lakewood Golf Course.**
- IV. Chairperson's report: Craig Stewart.
Youth Justice Day: State Legislature**
- V. Unfinished business:**
- VI. New business:**
- VII. Announcements.**
- VIII. Adjournment.**

This meeting is generally accessible for Persons with Disabilities. Should you have a request for accommodation to fully participate in this meeting, please contact Larry Bagneris at 504-658-4020 (Voice) 711 LA Relay Service or lbagneris@nola.gov no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.



**Minutes
City of New Orleans
Human Relations Commission
4:15 PM Thursday, April 14, 2016
Temple Sinai
6227 St. Charles Ave.**

Present: Larry Bagneris Jr., Tammy Barney, Briana Biagas, Janie Blackmon, Rabbi Edward Cohn, Anita Curran (Legal Counsel), Joseph Halm, Clay Latimer, Meredith Reed, Nikolaus Richard, Craig Stewart.

Absent: Eva Hurst-San Martin, Monique Maldonado, Richard Perque, Chavez Phelps, La'Tanja Silvester, Julie Thibodaux Earl Williams, Christopher Wiseman.

Guest: Diana Frank

I. Call to Order & Introductions of HRC Members at 4:20 p.m.

II. Minutes Approval – Latimer motioned and Richard seconded to approve the January 2016 and February 2016 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Executive Director's Report – Larry Bagneris Jr.

Bagneris gave a two-month report at this meeting since the March 2016 meeting was cancelled due to weather. Bagneris spoke about outreach to the Muslim community he did in response to some of the negative speech during the presidential campaigns. He said he reached out to three different mosques and was warmly received. Bagneris opened a discussion about potential changes/improvements to the HRC Report. Barney, Latimer and Biagas all had suggestions, and they said they would conduct a conference call to talk about the improvements. Bagneris added that he will be looking to hold an HRC Retreat after the new commissioners are installed, which is expected to be in July. Bagneris said he taped two HRC Reports for April and May. The April taping celebrated the work of the Lighthouse Louisiana and the work of MAC. The May report focused on the Hispanic community and the true meaning of Cinco de Mayo. Bagneris gave the commission members applications to re-apply to continue on the commission if they would like.

Bagneris gave a report on the case of Goodreaux vs. Lakewood Golf Course. According to Bagneris, he feels that this case has not been remediated. Mr. Goodreaux is a member at Lakewood, and he was playing golf one day when one of the course marshals started using the "N" word several times. Mr. Goodreaux told management, and he was told that the marshal was relieved of his duties; however, when Mr. Goodreaux went back to the course, the marshal was still working, Bagneris said. On March 3, Bagneris met with Lakewood administration and found out there were no people of color in the marshals' program. On March 7, Bagneris attempted to remediate the case further, but Lakewood would not remove the marshal. Mr. Goodreaux's membership at Lakewood was revoked as well. On April 13, Bagneris met with the New Orleans Fire Department Pension Board to see if it could take any action against the marshal. Bagneris

had five demands – the reinstatement of Mr. Goodreaux’s membership, an apology to Mr. Goodreaux from the board, the removal of the offending marshal, institute diversity as part of the marshal’s program and institute a sensitivity training for marshals. Bagneris said the pension board said that no one could prove what was said and that it was not the pension board’s responsibility to take any action. As part of the remediation process, the list of demands was negotiated down to two – reinstatement of Mr. Goodreaux and remove the offending marshal. According to Bagneris, Lakewood removed the marshal but would only allow Mr. Goodreaux to play without his membership. At that point, Bagneris said the mediation was over. Bagneris asked HRC members to provide some guidance on where to go from here.

Blackmon said she feels like race relations are taking a step backward. She said she feels like there needs to be a healing summit. After a lengthy discussion, the HRC members agreed that Mr. Goodreaux should seek whatever legal action that he deems necessary as well as take his story to the local media. Cohn motioned that the HRC supported Bagneris’ recommendation to Mr. Goodreaux that the HRC mediation has failed and that Mr. Goodreaux should seek whatever legal action that he deems necessary. Stewart seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Chairperson’s Report – Craig Stewart

Stewart gave a brief update on the Mr. Harvey wage theft case. Mr. Harvey was recently fired from his job and has been in touch with Loyola Law Clinic to help him with his case. Stewart also spoke about the Youth Justice Day at the State Legislature, which was a campaign to raise the age at which a child can be automatically prosecuted as an adult from 17 to 18. He said it was a positive experience, and there is more work to do on the issue.

Stewart also said he was approached by Ms. Vernon, who was hired as a pregnant employee and was fired at a local restaurant. She claims she was fired because she was pregnant. She is asking \$2,000 or at least an apology for what has happened. The Loyola Law Clinic asked the HRC to address the issue. Stewart asked if this is some the HRC can address. The commission suggested that she contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

V. Unfinished Business – None.

VI. New Business.

Reed motioned to move HRC meetings to the AARP offices at 3502 S. Carrollton Ave. starting at 4:15 p.m. Blackmon seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Temple Sinai has hosted the HRC for 26 years, and the commission thanked the temple for this.

VII. Announcements and Comments – None.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Halm, Secretary