



**PARTICIPANTS**

Commission Members Present:

Hamadi Jackson, Chair; Kelsey Murray, Vice Chair; Celine Coleman, Elana Lynn; Joaquin Lara Midkiff; Robert Marshall; Lisa Novak; Kirra Pressey; Hope Strayer

Guests Present:

Judy Collins; Lynelle Wilcox

Staff Present:

Gretchen Bennett, Deputy Chief Aguilar

**1. Call to Order, Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Chair Jackson welcomed the group and facilitated introductions. The You Tube channel transmission was noted. Chair Jackson announced Celine Coleman is now officially a Commission member.

**2. Public Comment**

Gretchen Bennett noted written public comment received by Lee Coyne related to size bias.

**3. Consent Calendar: Agenda and Minutes**

The consent calendar consists of the agenda, and minutes from both June and July. Vice Chair Murray moved to approve the consent calendar; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Action and/or Discussion Items:**

**a. Bias Crime Report**

DC Aguilar reported on one bias crime.

**b. Complaints report**

Gretchen reported four situations. Chair Jackson offered to mediate should the issue with neighbors re-emerges.

**c. Orientation**

Gretchen provided an overview of Commission work, briefly noting history, bylaws, Salem Revised Code, and a variety of other topics.

#### **d. Citizenship and Chapter 97**

Vice Chair Murray asked if something could be written in plainer language. Commissioner Lynn asked if we could do something with housing to protect people without citizenship from becoming evicted. Chair Jackson asked, what protections, if any, are possible? Commissioner Coleman noted state law will also be involved. Chair Jackson noted interest in sitting down with our legal department. Commissioner Lynn asked about police interactions with non-citizens; DC Aguilar discussed the sanctuary city and state policy. Commissioner Lynn noted a news release about targeting of possible change to the sanctuary law. Is there a need to strengthen? DC Aguilar discussed the extradition orders process. Commissioner Lara Midkiff observed a sizable effort in the Oregon legislature to change Oregon law; he would like to codify time, manner and place restrictions in Salem related to unsheltered homelessness if possible.

#### **e. Race Based Medicine**

Chair Jackson spoke of concerns for parameters of medical tests being set differently based upon race. He asked if anyone had connections and if this conversation could be had. The Health Equity Coalition was noted as a potential table for this inquiry. Commissioners Coleman and Murray could connect. Lynelle Wilcox noted participation on the Homeless Alliance' Health and Safety Committee. Commissioner Strayer noted she could reach hospice. Commissioner Lynn asked how would we see this playing out; information gathering? Chair Jackson shared he wanted to be sure this wasn't happening in Salem.

#### **5. Committee and Project Updates:**

- a. Community Engagement:** Commissioner Lara Midkiff discussed committee desire for routine community engagements and explored the first Wednesday of October, January, April and July as a possible plan. Area universities are proposed for October. Commissioner Lynn prefers for it to not be on a Wednesday.
- b. Data Visualization Committee:** Commissioner Lara Midkiff noted things are tentatively taking shape after an additional meeting with city GIS staff. Discussion is around what data streams, to what end, and what stories, do we want to share.
- c. Homelessness Town Hall:** Commissioner Marshall announced plans and asked for feedback on the flier and Facebook announcement, as well as thoughts about city communications staff feedback. He shared each organization speaking will have about 15 minutes and will cover the work they are doing, challenges, and strategies, and how they are collaborating. Commissioner Lynn suggested adding logos of presenters to the flier. Marketing ideas included the next service providers meeting, Homeless Alliance, and all channels. Lynelle Wilcox expressed appreciation for the event and spoke of data about who is experiencing homelessness. She is able to table, and the group agreed to see how many additional tables can fit for organizations. Commissioner Lynn also suggested providers related to substance use disorder might table. Judy Collins would

like to share the flier with those she works with. Commissioner Coleman suggested a sandwich board at the library entrance helping people to find the town hall.

- d. **LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights:** Vice Chair Murray discussed Transgender Day of Remembrance and SMARTIE goals planning. Commissioner Pressey is taking over as Chair of this Committee. The brochure is updated. Capital PRIDE is planned for September 21, and we have a table – please sign up!
- e. **Process Review Task Force:** Meeting scheduled.
- f. **Salem Speaks Up!:** Meeting scheduled.

## 6. Staff Updates:

Gretchen shared the Kawagoe Sister City seeks volunteers for its water bottle sales booth at the State Fair. Jackie Leung resigned from HRC for personal reasons and wishes HRC well. DC Aguilar noted Lt. Dowd can stay with HRC and appreciated the letter of support for him.

## 7. Calendar:

Commissioner Strayer reviewed upcoming events.

## 8. Member Remarks and Announcements:

Commissioner Lynn sees Salem small businesses shutting down, a lot of which are minority owned and the number one reasons they understand this is the case is rising rents. Can we pursue rent ordinances, looking at Portland as possible example?

Commissioner Lara Midkiff thanked Vice Chair Murray for her leadership on the LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights Committee. He thanked DC Aguilar for the news about Lt. Dowd.

Chair Jackson checked in to see if there were strong feelings about whether to hold the September meeting as scheduled, which would be September 11. No concerns; the group decided it was okay to proceed as planned.

*Minutes respectfully presented by staff Gretchen Bennett.*