



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION AGENDA
September 14, 2017 at 12 p.m.
City Hall, 222 Meigs Street

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

**Charlene Adams, Wendy Dobyons, Anthony Harris, Daryl Murphy,
Taylor Sutphen, Jennifer Washington & Dominic Wells**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CURRENT BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

- June 29, 2017

Staff Remarks

- Fire Chief Rick Wilcox - Introduction
- Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Talon Flohr
Update on Neighborhood Initiative

Open Discussion

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING(S)

TBD

Naomi Twine called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Members present: Wendy Dobyms, Anthony Harris, Daryl Murphy, Taylor Sutphen, Jennifer Washington and Dominic Wells

Members Absent: Charlene Adams

Ex-Officio members present: Justin Harris (Law Department), John Orzech (Police Department) and Talon Flohr (Community Development Department)

Staff Present: Kelly Kresser – Clerk, Naomi Twine - Commission Liaison, Justin Harris – Law Director, Talon Flohr – Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, John Orzech – Police Chief and Mario D’Amico – Interim Fire Chief

CURRENT BUSINESS

Introductions

Each of the new **CRC members and city staff in attendance introduced themselves** and Naomi Twine thanked the new members for their volunteerism on this new Committee. Ms. Twine said she started volunteering for the City of Sandusky as a member of the former Human Relations Commission and later as the City Commission Liaison after becoming a City Commissioner. The concept behind creating the CRC is to represent our diverse populations in the community and be welcoming to educational opportunities.

Orientation

Justin Harris said the specific **functions of membership** are outlined in the legislation previously provided to the members and they are to serve as external “eyes and ears” about things going on in the community. There will be opportunities to assist in diversifying the city’s workforce and helping to celebrate the city’s Bicentennial in 2018. The members have the ability, through these initiatives, to create their own destiny in how to move forward.

Election of Officers

Naomi Twine asked if there was interest for the **position of Chairperson** who will be responsible to set the Agendas, preside over the meetings and keep people on track. Anthony Harris said he would be interested in this position; Daryl Murphy also indicated interest, but would concede to Anthony Harris. Dominic Wells said he would be interested in the **position of Vice Chairperson**. **Naomi Twine named Anthony Harris as Chairperson and Dominic Wells as Vice Chairperson based upon their interest.**

Staff Remarks

John Orzech discussed various **programs and initiatives in the Police Department** including: procedures for complaints (internal and external), departmental policies and procedures, the

Fraternal Order of Police contract, annual statistics from the yearly reports and training and recruitment efforts. John Orzech indicated there are four African Americans, three females and one Hispanic Police Officer currently on the Department. The city has utilized the National Testing Network for hiring purposes during the past two rounds of testing and two African American candidates were hired this week. The primary focus of the Community Relations Officers is through their neighborhood and park walks. Body cameras and cruiser audio/video equipment has been in use during the past two years to safeguard both Police Officers and citizens. Professionalism has greatly improved during the past few years because of training efforts and through use of the department motto: Pride, Professionalism, Accountability and Respect (PPAR). Daryl Murphy said he is Chairperson of the local NAACP and believes these training efforts have greatly reduced the number of complaints received.

Mario D'Amico said the city is made up of thirty percent minorities, but the ethnic makeup of the Fire Department does not reflect this as there are three African Americans, one Hispanic and one female employee currently with the Department (or ten percent minorities). The SFD does need to diversity its workforce, but currently there is no strategy to accomplish this. The Explorer program introduces young persons (Ages 14 – 20 years) to fire fighting. Very few complaints are received by the Department but there should be a priority to provide diversity training to the members of the Department. Naomi Twine suggested the CRC could potentially assist with minority recruitment efforts for the SFD in the future.

Talon Flohr said he has been with the city for just about one year as the Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator and was hired to develop the Neighborhood Initiative program which is close to being adopted. He also attends block watch meetings and works with school and college-age kids to become more active and involved in the community. Daryl Murphy asked about the status of the full-court basketball court at Orlando Pace Park and Naomi Twine said the size of this court was reduced after hearing complaints from neighbors. Talon Flohr noted upgrades in the basketball courts are being planned for Central and Jaycee Parks. Jennifer Washington said she is pleased with what she sees happening in the city with both the Police and Fire Departments.

McKenzie Spriggs, Bicentennial Coordinator, presented information about the city's upcoming Bicentennial celebration including the activities and events planned for 2018. The members of the CRC were invited to become part of this event, if they so choose, to work in collaboration and unity with the many Committees established for this year-long commemoration including: History, Marketing, Community Involvement, Bicentennial Ball, Festival of Sail and Legacy Projects. Efforts are being made by local museums, the faith-based community, the youth and representatives of arts & culture, health & wellness and neighborhoods.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Justin Harris noted the CRC is required to meet four times per year as outlined in the legislation. **The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 14 at 12 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Anthony Harris and second of Dominic Wells, the members voted to adjourn at 4:52 p.m. The Chairperson declared the motion passed.

Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk
Date: ____/____/____

Anthony Harris, Chairperson
Date: ____/____/____

DRAFT