

**MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**March 10, 2014**  
**4:00 P.M.**

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers of City Hall with Chair Jody Cofer Randall presiding.

**Members Present:** Chair Jody Cofer Randall, Paula Compton, Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke, Jane Shoemaker, Tung Dinh, Dr. Brian Clardy, Connie Payne

**Members Absent:** Linda Cherry

**Staff Present:** Mayor Bill Wells, June Batts

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Scott Byrd, Murray State University Sociology Program Director, Shelby Bella, Miss Kentucky High School America 2014

Chair Cofer Randall welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Minutes of February 10, 2014 were presented for approval. **Ms. Shoemaker motioned** to accept the minutes as presented; **seconded by Dr. Clardy**. All members present were in favor of the motion.

**Old business:**

Chair Cofer Randall stated he and the City Administrator were working on policies and procedures in place for the Human Rights Ordinance update. He said samples were being compiled in a database from ten other cities to expedite the process. Chair Cofer Randall said the updated ordinance would be reviewed by the Commission before Council approval later this year.

Chair Cofer Randall stated the Committee on Poverty met and recognized Ms. Shoemaker and Dr. Pittman Munke who offered a report on the meeting. Ms. Shoemaker stated Janice Hicks spoke to the Committee about research involving encroachment of rental property in violation of local zoning ordinances and the impact of slum housing. Dr. Pittman Munke stated Faye Dodd, Director of the Murray Housing Authority, attended the meeting and presented a demographic overview of residents in public housing. She said Michelle Johnson from the Gentry House also presented an overview of the clients her organization serves and said, like the Housing Authority clientele, they were a hard-working, community-oriented group.

Chair Cofer Randall introduced Dr. Byrd, Murray State University Sociology Program Director and member of the Gentry House Board of Directors.

Dr. Byrd presented an overview of the relationship between the multidimensional economic factors and causes related to poverty in the United States and how everyday life is impacted--attach. Dr. Byrd also presented information regarding Gentry House clientele, funding issues, and the scarcity of affordable housing in Murray.

The Committee discussed employment solutions and the challenges faced by small business owners.

**New business:**

Chair Cofer Randall recognized Shelby Bellah, Miss Kentucky High School America 2014, who presented an overview of her platform, which focuses on bullying and is titled "The Crown C.A.R.E.S." (Creating A Respectful Environment in Schools). She said her reign was in effect until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and was accepting donations/sponsorships to compete at the national level, as she traveled the area speaking to groups about bullying.

The Commission discussed ways for Ms. Bellah to reach the surrounding area with the anti-bullying message.

Chair Cofer Randall called for comments from Commission Members.

Dr. Clardy invited members to the Shakespeare Festival on the MSU campus throughout the week.

Chair Cofer Randall reminded members of the next Human Rights Commission Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2014, and invited them to the April 12<sup>th</sup> Annual LGBT Celebration.

Dr. Pittman Munke stated the Poverty Commission would meet on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at her house.

With no further business before the Commission, **Dr. Clardy motioned to adjourn; seconded by Dr. Pittman Munke.** All members present were in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.