Human Rights Commission

December 10, 2012

5:00 pm

The Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 10, 2012, at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Chair Jody Cofer, Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke, Council Member Linda Cherry, Dr. Jim Frank, and Dr. Brian Clardy

Members Absent: Connie Payne and Tung Dinh

Staff Present: Mayor Bill Wells, City Administrator Matt Mattingly, and Administrative Assistant Melissa Taylor

Chair Cofer presented old business regarding the Bully Free Resolution/Ordinance that was passed by the Commission and present to the City Administrator and City Attorney for review. The meeting was held to discuss how the proposed resolution must narrow down the definition of the resolution due to the broadness and inability to enforce a subsequent ordinance on the matter as it is currently outlined. Chair Cofer introduced Administrator Mattingly to discuss the meeting held about the Resolution on November 19, 2012. The meeting included Chair Cofer,

Dr. Allan Beane, City Attorney Warren Hopkins, Chief of Police Jeff Liles, Administrator Mattingly, and Administrative Assistant Taylor. Administrator Mattingly indicated that the Resolution was presented to City Attorney Hopkins and the Kentucky League of Cities legal team for further review due to the importance and newness of this matter not only in Murray but across the Commonwealth. The terminology used for bullying in the Resolution was so broad that there were reservations from a legal perspective on enforcing an ordinance. It was decided during that meeting that Dr. Beane would work with the City to narrow the definitions and terms in the Resolution. Administrator Mattingly stated that the City's short term would be, in part, to add two resource officers in the Murray Independent Schools systems (Middle School & High School) after the Christmas Break. The new resource officers will be required to participate in Dr. Beane's Bully-free training along with being familiar with the school system's policies and procedures on these issues. Chair Cofer indicated that this was a short term solution, but a step in the right direction and would like the Commission to approve an updated resolution in January that will be presented to the City Council at their last meeting in January. This would place visibility on the issue of bullying and kick off an education campaign. Dr. Munke stated the Murray State University is going to have a conference on April 5th & 6th, 2013, which will include an anti-bullying component and would like the Human Rights Commission to be a sponsor. Dr. Beane is going to be invited to be a speaker. Dr. Munke also invited Dr. Clardy to participate as a speaker; He stated he would be honored. Chair Cofer addressed the Commission and suggested that the Commission as a whole participate in the conference in April along with other anti-bullying efforts in February and March, 2013. Chair Cofer suggested that the Human Rights Commission, the school system, and other select individuals with expertise on bullying

meeting in February and then host a public forum/town hall meeting in March to educate the community that bullying is not accepted anywhere in our community.

Following up on an issue brought forward by members of the City Council, Chair Cofer suggested that the length of the Commission member's terms be extended from a 1 year term to 2 year terms and create a rotation so all members do rotate at the same time. It was decided this would be folded into the ongoing effort to update our Human Rights Ordinance.

Dr. Frank resigned from the Commission due to heath issues. Mayor Wells accepted his resignation. Dr. Clardy moved, second by Ms. Cherry to recognize the service of Dr. Frank to the Commission. Mayor Wells suggested that the Commission should have something in place to be presented to the City Council on January 24, 2013 for Dr. Frank.

Mayor Wells discussed Commission membership and the importance of engaged participation by all members. He also discussed open vacancies and invited the Commission to suggest candidates to him. It was decided that members will route suggestions through Chair Cofer to be forwarded on to the Mayor. Mayor Wells suggested that Council-member elect Jane Shoemaker would be a good to serve on the Commission. Chair Cofer and Dr. Clardy agreed.

Chair Cofer stated that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is on January 21, 2013. Chair Cofer suggested that the regular Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast be eliminated and the Commission support another function or organization for the celebration. Chair Cofer suggested that the Commission sponsor the community breakfast being hosted by the Zeta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha at Murray State University at Woodman of the World with $150.00. Dr. Clardy motioned that the Commission appropriate the sum of $150.00 to sponsor. Dr. Munke seconded and all voted in favor.

Chair Cofer motioned to adjourn at 5:55 p.m., Dr. Munke seconded the motion. All concurred.

The Commission's next meeting will be on January 14, 2013.

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Mayor Bill Wells

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ATTESTED BY: Chair Jody Cofer