

## **BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of November 22, 2021 Meeting**

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met via zoom beginning at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, November 22, 2021. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Byron Bangert, Valeri Haughton-Motley and Erin McAlister. Absent with notice was Pam Jackson. Absent without notice was Latosha Williams. A quorum was present. Also present were Nicole DeCricsio Bowe, BHRC assistant, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

**Roll call:** Chair Shadday called the roll at 5:34 p.m.

**Approval of minutes of October 25, 2021 BHRC meeting:** Bangert moved that the minutes of the October 25, 2021 BHRC meeting be approved as presented. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Shadday called the roll; passed unanimously.

#### **Unfinished business**

**Webpage update:** McKinney and DeCricsio-Bowe reported that the web page update was nearly complete. McKinney invited the commissioners to review it and provide input.

**Human Rights award update:** McKinney said that we included an article about accepting nominations for the HR award in the November newsletter and will include articles in future newsletters as well. She said the mayor's office will be distributing the press release soon. She said she would send a copy of the press release to the commissioners for them to share with their contacts.

Haughton-Motley said she would nominate CO•RE. Bangert and Calloway-Thomas asked for a written nomination.

**2022 goals and objectives:** Shadday said he would send out the list of goals and objectives from the 1990s before the next meeting so that the commissioners can think about those goals and the ones suggested by Williams before the meeting.

**Essay/art contest:** McAlister said that she was disturbed by how frequently kids use the n word. She said that this happens more in Bloomington than it did in Maryland, where she lived before, and another parent told her it happens more than it did in Mississippi. She asked if there was some way the BHRC could work on this issue and create a public discussion. She said it happens in many contexts, including joking, quoting

songs and in anger. One student was suspended for two days for using the word, so the schools do take it seriously when they are aware of it.

Calloway-Thomas said she is sorry that it's happening and is surprised by the frequency.

McKinney will invite Rafi Hassan from MCCSC to a future BHRC meeting to discuss this issue.

The commissioners discussed incorporating something about this in the essay/art theme, or using a theme such as "Where do your rights end and another person's begin?" for all ages.

Bangert suggested framing the theme in another way, about how what we do can harm someone else. The theme could ask what happens if we are not civil to another and when if ever is it to harm someone else.

The commissioners will vote on a theme at the December meeting.

New business: None.

Assignment of new cases: None.

Other business: None.

Public input: None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney