



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

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Chief Diversity Officer

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

April 19, 2023 ONONDAGA COUNTY/SYRACUSE HRC MEETING

*****Draft: pending approval*****

MEMBERS: X_Hassina Adams X_Chris Gilkes
P_Bishop H. Bernard Alex P_Nodesia Hernandez
P_Samia Al-Fareh P_Agnes McCray
P_Mbonimpa Banabas P_Liam O'Connor
X_Rev. Roosevelt Baums P_Lauren Rosenstein
X_Rasheada Caldwell (Chair) P_Leo Sanchez
P_Mia Wade

Absent: Hassina Adams, Rev. Roosevelt Baums, Rasheada Caldwell, Chris Gilkes.

County staff present: CDO Monica Williams, Exec. Dir. of HR Montanette Murphy, Human Rights Specialist Johanna Sellers and County Attorney Pam Romeo.

Opening: Meeting began at 5:36

Introduction and Welcome: Office of Diversity and Inclusion staff, Commissioners, Law Department all introduced themselves. New Commissioner Samia Al-Fareh was introduced. Community members Alesha Jordan, Melissa Ellingworth, Onondaga County Legislator Mary Kuhn, Sora Iriye and Shaho Shwani were recognized, but no public comments were allowed.

Chair's Report: None.

Administrator's Report: Montanette urged Commissioners who have concerns or issues relating to the functioning of the Human Rights Commission to bring those issues and concerns to the attention of the Commission first and then allow Commissioners to determine the next plan of action as a group.

New Business: Discussion of J-E school board meeting video. Melissa Ellingworth and Alesha Jordan spoke to the Commission and community about their sons' racist experiences within the Jordan-Elbridge school district. Ellingworth and Jordan are seeking advocacy. The Commission plans to write a letter to the J-E school board about the racist incidents and also attend the April 26, 2023, J-E school board meeting.

Meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Montanette Murphy on April 21, 2023.