



County of Onondaga  
**Office of Diversity and Inclusion**

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*County Executive*

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## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

March 16, 2022 **VIRTUAL** HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

**Human Rights Commissioners Present:** Rasheada Caldwell, Agnes McCray, Lanessa Chaplin, John Rushing III, Mia Wade, Rev. Roosevelt Baums

**Human Rights Commissioners Absent:** Al-amin Muhammad, Barbara Johnson, Chris Gilkes, Mbonimpa Banabas, Liban Mohammed, Nodesia Hernandez, Leo Sanchez

**Community members present:** Dr. Rev. H. Bernard Alex, Lael Pierce, Sora Iriye, Anna Zoodsma, Lucreaty Love

**County staff present:** Executive Director of Human Rights/Onondaga County Montanette Murphy, Human Rights Specialist/Onondaga County Johanna Sellers

**Attendance:** Meeting began at 5:34 p.m.

**Greetings and Welcome**

**Recognition of Commissioners**

**Recognition of Community Members (no public comment)**

**Approval of February minutes:** Approved 6-0

**Approval of March Agenda:** Approved 6-0

**Administrator's Report:**

1. Beginning in April we will meet in person. The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be on April 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. The location will be the South Side Innovation Center located at 2610 South Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13205.
2. Syracuse Pal is holding a Teen March Madness basketball tournament held on Friday and Saturday nights, from 8:00 p.m. - midnight, March 18, 2022 to April 9, 2022. The location is the Hamilton Boys & Girls club.
3. Follow up on Commissioner's requests:
  - The names tags we will be using are the ones the Onondaga County Print Shop supplies for us.
  - Instead of purchasing a banner for table events and office space, we will find a local illustrator to create a banner for us by drawing an illustration.

**Chair's Report:** No new news.

Progressive Youth Ministry is hosting a Teen Night event at Bellevue School GYM this Friday, 3/18/2022, 5:00pm to 9:00pm.

**New business/Old business:**

● **Public hearing topics**

- 1) We can discuss public hearing topics more when all commissioners are present.
- 2) We suggest holding the public hearings at 5:30pm so more people will be able to attend. How will we notify the public that the public hearing meeting is different from our monthly meetings?
- 3) We can offer an alternate day like Saturday & Sunday, at least once or twice a year for people to attend.
- 4) We need to have an ASL Interpreter at the public hearings and have it live-streamed.
- 5) How can we market the public hearing meetings besides using social media?

● **Subcommittees**

- 1) Determine which Human Rights Commissioners will be a part of which committees.
- 2) We discussed whether the subcommittees titles should be more general than specific and came up with the titles of "Policing," "Healthcare," and "Outreach." The title "advocacy" can fall under all three titles.
- 3) We will discuss at another meeting what the role will be for each committee.
- 4) By show of hands, we found out what committee some of the Human Rights Commissioners would like to be on:

**Policing** – Rev. Roosevelt Baums, Agnes McCray

**Healthcare** – Lanessa Chaplin, Agnes McCray,  
Mia Wade, John Rushing III

**Outreach** – Lanessa Chaplin

## **Announcements:**

- 1) Human Rights Commissioner Agnes McCray will be holding a women's history month gathering on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, or 29<sup>th</sup> via zoom. She would like to celebrate our Syracuse community and the women leaders who are doing work in the community. She will reach out to people when she has more information.
- 2) Human Rights Commissioner Lanessa Chaplin announced that the state of New York is the 6<sup>th</sup> state to amend their constitution to include "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment." This is a huge achievement in fighting environmental racism.

**Motion to adjourn meeting: 6-0**

**Meeting adjourned: 6:22 p.m.**

**\*\*Minutes submitted by Human Rights Specialist Johanna Sellers\*\***