

Minutes
Meeting of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
January 17, 2014

Call to Order

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission met on January 17, 2014 in the Commissioners Room 5034/51CC 5th Floor, of the Department of Administration (DOA) Building, 116 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC. Mr. Clarence Henderson, Chairman of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 9:47am.

Chairman Henderson requested that Commissioner W. Douglas Williams open the meeting with a prayer. After the prayer, meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the Board in attendance were Chairman Clarence Henderson, Commissioners Anitra Bailey, Troy Kickler, Jacquie Jeffers, Larry Jones, Melissa Martin, Warren Turner, Tony Mitchell, Kenneth Freeman, Donnie Garris, and Douglas Williams.

Commissioners Prince, Taylor, Moore and Sturdivant were absent.

Also attending were Emily Williams, Executive Director of the NC Human Relations Commission (NCHRC), Mary Curtis, NCHRC/Martin Luther King, Jr. Program Coordinator, Supreme Court Justice Paul Newby, Secretary Bill Daughtridge, and representatives from the four organizations awarded FY 2014 MLK grants.

Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2013

The minutes of the last meeting were provided to the commission. Minutes were reviewed by Commission and approved without amendments.

Swearing in of New Commissioners

Commissioner Warren Turner was sworn in by the Honorable Paul M. Newby N.C. Supreme Court Justice.

Committee Reports

None reported

Old Business

- **Details of Lobbying for Additional Funding for MLK Grant**
 - Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Jefferson and Commissioner Freeman are awaiting final confirmation from the Department of Administration's Legal Counsel about the appropriateness of the MLK Commission's carrying out lobbying activities. Commissioner Williams will provide, to the

Commission, a list of elected officials who may have insights into options for increasing funding for the Commission. A summary will be developed and submitted to Emily Williams.

New Business

- **Bell Ringing Ceremony January 17, 2014**
 - Emily Williams presented an overview of the bell ringing program the role of the Commissioners at this event.

- **State Employees Martin Luther King Jr Observance Program and John R. Larkins Award Ceremony January 17, 2014 Program**
 - Emily Williams distributed an early draft of the program for the State Employees MLK Holiday Observance Program. She discussed the role of the Commission at this service. She also presented an overview of the selection of the finalists for the John R. Larkin's Award.

- **Triangle Interfaith Prayer Breakfast- Monday January 20, 2014- Commissioner Melissa Martin**
 - Commissioner Martin confirmed a table reserved for 12 MLK Commissioners. Chairman Henderson and Commissioners Bailey, Freeman, Harshaw, Jeffers, Jones, Kickler, Martin, Mitchell, and Prince committed to attending the breakfast.

- **Budget- Executive Director of NC Human Relations Commission (NCHRC) Emily Williams**
 - **State Employee MLK Program**
 - \$2500 Church
 - \$2500 Reception- Department of Public Safety
 - \$500 Triangle Interfaith Breakfast Table
 - \$1350 Honorariums for Participants of State MLK programs

 - **Establishment of 501(c)3**
 - Emily Williams indicate that the Commission could establish a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization, for the purpose of recruiting additional funding from the private sector for MLK Grants; however, the funding would not be automatically protected. Because the MLK Commission served as a State Commission, funding in the 501(c)3 could be recaptured by State Legislative action. Commissioner Freeman made a recommendation that the Commission research the protection of funds collected as a 501(c)3. The Commission requested that the Departmental Legal Counsel be present at the next meeting of the Commission to discuss this issue further.

- Chairman Henderson also requested that after Commissioner Freeman has researched the issue, he provide a summary of his findings to Emily Williams who would submit this to the Department's Legal Counsel for review.

Introduction of FY2014 MLK Grantees and short summary of grant programs

The four FY 2014 MLK grantees:

- Fayetteville/Cumberland County Ministerial Council, Fayetteville, NC,
- Thomas Mentor Leadership Academy, Durham NC,
- North Carolina Museum of History Foundation Raleigh, NC, and
- Young Women of Promise Inc. Kinston, NC

Were introduced.

Each grantee presented a brief summary of their project that will develop and deliver education/outreach activities to youth in their respective regions. All four grantees emphasized their commitment to enhancing the lives of youth in their respective communities.

Announcements

Upcoming Commission meetings were scheduled for:

- March 20, 2014
- June 19, 2014

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Henderson.

Anitra Bailey

2.10.14

Anitra Bailey

Date

