

Fair Housing Task Force

Minutes of the February 11, 2021 Meeting

Present:

Legislator Sam Gonzalez, representing the 9th District.
Legislator Steven Flotteron, representing the 11th District.
Derek Stein (Office of the Presiding Officer)
Luann Dullojacona (Office of the Presiding Officer)
Natasha Marrero (Office of Legislator Gonzalez)
Dawn Lott (SC Human Rights Commission)
Cicely Harris (NYS Division of Human Rights)
Sharon Mullon (LIHP)
Mitchell H. Pally (Long Island Builders Institute)
Ashely Alvarado (Long Island Hispanic Bar Association)
Hon. Frank Schellace (Long Island Hispanic Bar Association)
Liza Milgrim (Long Island Hispanic Bar Association)
Dr. Georgette Grier-Key (NAACP)
Pilar Moya-Mancera (Latino Justice)
Ian Wilder (Long Island Housing Services)
Lynda Perdomo-Ayala (SC Human Rights Commission)
Bo Patten (LIBOR)
Froebel Chungata (NYS Division of Human Rights)

Absent:

Johnathan Smith (NYS Division of Human Rights)
V. Elaine Gross (Erase Racism)
Nancy Vargas-Johnson (Central Islip Civic Council)

Guest:

Rosemarie Pforr
Dr. Dionne Walker- Belgrave
Gina Martini

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Minutes

Legislator Gonzalez made a motion to approve the November 10, 2020 meeting Minutes. Hon. Frank Schellace made a correction that Pilar Moya-Mancera is from Latino Justice not LIBOR. November 10, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.

2. Discuss Public Hearing

Legislator Gonzalez wanted to start the discussion about February 10, 2021 Public Hearing. Legislator Gonzalez expressed he is an individual with a lot of passion especially for discriminations against minorities. He apology if he was a little voice full. Legislator Gonzalez believes that it's not an necessity to change the resolution until all the recommendations from the Task Force have been compiled. He stated that it is important to listen to everything; especially what people have in mind and what people are going through.

Hon. Frank stated that everyone on the task force has tremendous experience in fair housing and affordable housing but he does not. He is experienced in voting rights, voting rights act and his judicial career. His point is the task force needs to have rules and procedures. He reference page 2 paragraph 5 in the November minutes where Legislator Gonzalez agreed to limit the focus. Hon. Frank stated the task force should get down to business.

Lynda stated everyone on this task force is on here with a mission to dissect. She referenced the resolutions. She stated the point is to stop discrimination in itself. Topic is the same, the titles is different.

Dawn stated there has to be a level of respect everyone should give each other on the task force. Respecting each other is allowing each other to speak. She referred to the resolutions.

Legislator Gonzalez stated there was an extension on the amendment until the December 31, 2021. The task force does not have to be until December 31 but we have that period to do so.

Legislator Flotteron stated that all the conversation is important but he wanted to make us aware that we should update the original resolution. Maybe change the topic of the resolution or create a new resolution.

Legislator asked the task force if they wanted to a broaden this task force or possible make a new task force for affordable housing.

Sharon stated that there is a bit of confusing about vouchers. The availability or quantity of vouchers are more affordable housing issue however if your talking about discrimination when using voucher with rent that's a fair housing issue under the human rights law and state human rights law. That is the problem when reviewing the human rights law and should be strengthen and explained because that can be something with social security and disability or any other lawful source of income.

Legislator Gonzalez stated the reason a lot of individuals are not coming to the public hearings because some individuals might not know that there being discriminated against and steered unless u have someone that's put there to see if your being steered.

Ian stated that we should report on all the testimony and broaden that. Ian agrees with Dawn.

Lynda stated that

Pilar shared he own experienced. When Pilar moved here at the age of 27 she was 6 months pregnant and not even 24 hours after she moved she received her 1st hate letter, then 3 days later her 2nd one and then a 3rd letter. She said not only did they threaten her life but also her baby's life. She wanted to clarify when she mentioned the police at the public hearing that she meant that we should get all the police and precincts involve to protect these tenets. Pilar stated that tenets don't know that they are not being discriminated or steered.

Legislator Gonzalez stated that the precincts should have an education course as a refresher on what to expect.

3. Open Discussion

Hon. Frank referred to emails. He stated that the Suffolk County legislature enacts laws and regulations are promulgated by an agency and the executive branch. Regulations are there to support and implement the legislation. Hon. Frank asked Pilar and Dawn where there regulations promulgated in Dawn's agency. Dawn said no.

Lynda stated that Erase Racism did a similar activities like Newsday did. The Human rights commission members can set the tone on how they want particular laws whether it be local or state wide law to take place.

Hon. Frank mentioned section 528-18 in the Human Rights Law.

Lynda stated that there are two investigators and one executive director for everything that relates to human rights. There is a need for more money to hire more investigators to do what they need to do.

Hon. Frank stated that in addition to making recommendations to amend the human rights law, the task force should create recommendations the agency itself to promulgate internal regulations that do not need to be passed by the legislature.

Ian stated that the state division of human rights did promulgate the source of income. The proposal should be given to the commission to receive more resource.

Hon. Frank asked Dawn what are the procedures. Dawn stated that the procedures and the process in in chapter 528 in the human rights law or on their website under rules and regulations.

4. Recommendations

Dr. Georgette stated that there should be more time to do great things. She also stated that the task force should be a permanent body. Doesn't necessarily need to be all the members however its apparent that we need more work and this is an ongoing and systemic issue. There are nuisance that need to be linked.

Ian agreed with Dr. Georgette.

1. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 25th at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Meeting Minutes prepared by Natasha Marrero & Derek Stein.

CC: NM, JH, DS