



## Meeting Record

**Human Rights Board (HRB)**

**Date: July 27, 2015**

**Call to Order: 4:07 PM**

### Attendees

Judith Ann	Jason Blank	Miya Burt-Stewart (via phone)
Fayola Delica	Marta Estevez	Rob Gillette
S.F. Makalani-MaHee	Gregory Milford	Jose Morera
Michael Rajner	Phyllis Shaw (via phone)	Ben Sorensen (via phone)
Leisa Wintz (via phone)		
Barbara Ann McGovern, Board Coordinator	Adam Katzman, Asst. Cty. Atty.	

### Members Absent

Maria Barth				
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### Key Decisions

- *Revised* Agenda adopted; June 9, 2015, Meeting Minutes approved
- Amendments to Bylaws approved
- Request for \$1,000 annual budget
- Palm Card design approved
- Inside Out photo installation site at Governmental Center West
- Proclamations for United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) celebration of United Nations Human Rights Day, observed on October 14, 2015; and for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Southern Comfort Conference in Broward County

### Action Items

	Description	Resource	Status
1.	Request for annual budget	Ms. McGovern	In progress
2.	Palm Card printing	Ms. McGovern	In progress
3.	Proclamation draft for UNA-USA	Ms. Delica/Ms. McGovern	In progress
4.	Proclamation for Southern Comfort Conference	Ms. McGovern	In progress

### Discussion Points

Moment of Silence

In memory of the victims of South Carolina tragedy, the Tennessee Navy facility tragedy, Nicole Lee Hatch, a member of the transgender community, Carlos, a disabled individual in Wilton Manors and the precious young lives taken in random shootings.

**PRESENTATION:** “Disability Rights are Civil Rights – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)” by Ms. Karen Fortman, Chair, Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities (ABID). **MOTION** by Mr. Blank to issue a news release in cooperation with ABID to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA, and provide contact information for the Human Rights Section if any person believes they have been a victim of discrimination. Seconded by Mr. Morera. *Passed Unanimously.*

- **LITIGATION REPORT:** Written report submitted by Mr. Katzman. He advised that service animals are for public accommodations and emotional support animals are for housing. Mr. Katzman to provide update on recent amendment to Florida Statute on service animals.

- **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Attended a meeting at the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District office to discuss hate crime attacks on churches. Mr. Rajner will attend an October meeting on LGBT issues. Attended the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in Miami for a meeting on the topic of migrant farm workers.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Provide clarification to County Commission on pending amendments to **Sec. 16½-153. - Registration of a domestic partnership relationship.**

Recommend removal of Broward domicile residency requirement and replace with “mutually shared” residence to qualify for Domestic Partnership Registry and county employee benefits; however, apply “shared primary” residence to county employees participating in the county’s tax equity reimbursement program. Commissioner Wexler championed the one-half million dollar allocation for county employees who may have a tax penalty, since the amount of the health benefits given to the domestic partner would be taxable income. There are approximately 7,000 registered domestic partnerships; 114 county employees in a domestic partnership; and approximately 82% are of opposite sex. Stratton Politzer, Equality Florida, stated the Domestic Partnership Registry recognizes the number of people living in a committed, permanent, unmarried relationship. Broward County is now reaffirming its commitment to domestic partners. There is no evidence of fraud being an issue. **MOTION** by Mr. Blank for the Board to adopt the recommendation and send it to the County Commission. Seconded by Ms. Delica. Discussion followed. Mr. Katzman advised the proposed verbiage from the County Attorney is “common household” for the Commissioners consideration.

Definition of “common household:” Reside together means living together in a common household, including circumstances in which a partner may be temporarily absent from the common household so long as the partner has the intent to return. Partners may be deemed to reside together even if one or both partners have additional places to live.

**Amended MOTION** by Mr. Blank for the Board to recommend removal of the Broward domicile residency requirement and replace with “common household” to qualify for domestic partnership registry and county employee benefits. The Board further recommends the Commission use equitable language throughout the rest of the ordinance; however, the Board takes no specific position as to the language applying to the County’s tax equity reimbursement program. Mr. Blank voluntarily withdrew his *Amended Motion*. **MOTION** by Mr. Blank that the Board recommend to the County Commission that the language chosen in drafting the ordinance or any amendments to the ordinance be fair, equitable and consistent throughout to avoid disparate impact. Seconded by Mr. Makalani-MaHee. Mr. Makalani-MaHee withdrew his second of the motion. Mr. Blank withdrew his motion.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Proposed Bylaws Amendments: **MOTION** by Mr. Gillette to approve the amendments to the bylaws. Seconded by Mr. Makalani-MaHee. *Passed Unanimously.*

B. Human Rights Board Budget Request: **MOTION** by Mr. Makalani-MaHee to request the County Commission approve a \$1,000 annual budget as reimbursement for conference registrations, as well as travel expenses for meetings and conferences outside of Broward County related to purposes of the Human Rights Board. Seconded by Ms. Ann. *Passed Unanimously.*

C. Outreach Committee Recommendations:

- Human Rights Board Palm Card: **MOTION** by Ms. Estevez to approve the palm card design submitted by Ms. McGovern. Seconded by Mr. Morera. *Passed Unanimously.*
- Proclamations: **MOTION** by Mr. Makalani-MaHee for proclamation presentations at a County Commission meeting for the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) celebration of United Nations Human Rights Day, observed on October 14, 2015; and for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Southern Comfort Conference in Broward County, Sept. 29- Oct. 4, 2015. Seconded by Ms. Estevez. *Passed Unanimously.*

**MOTION** by Ms. Delica to continue the meeting to 6:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Makalani-MaHee. *Passed Unanimously.*

- Posted notices of Human Rights Act protections: **MOTION** by Mr. Blank for Broward County to post a notice in all common areas of protections provided under the Human Rights Act and, if necessary, increase the Human Rights Section's budget to allow for additional printing of such materials. This notice to be required to be posted at all locations where the county directly provides services or indirectly provides services through contracted vendors. Seconded by Ms. Ann. *Passed Unanimously.*

• **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued):**

B. Broward 100 Inside Out Photo Installation – Community Champions: **MOTION** by Mr. Gillette to select the photo installation site at Government Center West. Seconded by Ms. Delica. *Passed Unanimously.*

Proposed Dates: August 24 or August 25

Selection of Five (5) Community Champion Honorees:

Marsha Ellison, Debra White, Pastor Larry Thompson, Alina Maria Tello-Cordon, Dean Trantalis/Robin Bodiford

**MOTION** by Ms. Estevez to accept the slate of honorees. Seconded by Ms. Ann. *Passed Unanimously.*

Proclamations will be presented to the honorees at the September 1, 2015, County Commission meeting, 10 AM.

**MOTION** by Ms. Estevez for the Chair to send congratulatory letters to the honorees. Seconded by Ms. Delica. *Passed Unanimously.*

C. Community Outreach Forum: Proposed date of Monday, September 14, 2015, 4-7 PM.

**MOTION** by Ms. Delica to reschedule the forum event to June 2016 in connection with the observance of Human Rights Day. Seconded by Mr. Makalani-MaHee. *Passed Unanimously.*

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

**The next scheduled Board meeting will convene:**

**Monday, October 19, 2015, 4 PM, Governmental Center, Room 301.**

*If any Board Member or other party would like more detailed information about the contents of these summarized minutes, the compact disk will be available by contacting the Human Rights Section at 954-357-7800.*