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Providence Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2016

The Open Session of the Providence Human Relations Commission (PHRC) was called to order at 12:13pm at 444 Westminster Street, Law Department conference room on floor 2, Providence, RI, 02903.

Commissioners Present: Raymond Watson, Patricia LaSalle, Chace Baptista, John Gaffney, Maria Monteiro, Cesar Teo, Matthieu Yangambi

Absent: Lucy Rose

Staff Present: Director Jen Stevens, Asst. City Solicitor Natasha Buckler

1. Call to Order/Introductions:

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 12:13pm. A quorum was established; 7 of 8 commissioners were present.

2. Revise letter urging that ADA improvements to buildings be prioritized in the proposed 40m bond:

Commissioner Gaffney offered several written changes to the draft Jen had emailed to the group. Many of his suggestions were accepted.

Discussion and consensus led to this letter being addressed to Mayor Elorza with the City Council and Director of Public Property being copied. A reference to Sec. 16-63B of the ordinance (relating to the PHRC's duty to advise the Mayor and Council) was added to the letter.

ADA Coordinator Kevin Olasanoye was unable to attend the meeting but was invited to call in to participate in the discussion and did so at this point.

Commissioner Gaffney suggested that a vote be taken on whether or not to remove the word

alleged in regard to claims within the settlement agreement between the Department of Justice and the City of Providence. Chair Watson made the motion. Commissioner LaSalle seconded.

Commissioner Monteiro voted to remove *alleged*; all others voted to keep *alleged* (6-1).

Chair Watson excused himself during meeting. It was decided that he would meet with Jen later in the day to sign the approved letter. Vice Chair LaSalle, continued and chaired the meeting.

Commissioner LaSalle moved to strike the last paragraph of Commissioner Gaffney's draft. Commissioner Gaffney voted against striking the paragraph; all others voted in favor of striking the paragraph (5-1).

Commissioner LaSalle moved to approve the letter as amended. Commissioner Monteiro seconded. All voted in favor (6-0).

3. **Next Meeting:** August 15, 2016, 5:30pm. Location TBA.

4. **Adjournment:** Commissioner LaSalle moved to adjourn. Commissioner Baptista seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:16pm.