

# **CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Terre Haute Human Relations Commission

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Minutes

City Hall, 5:00 PM

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Uzziah Hutchinson at 5:01 PM.

**Present:** Director, AT Ryan. President, Sandy Mutchler, Commissioners: Dee Reed, Uzziah Hutchinson, Jacqueline Lower, Amber Stewart, Dana Simons, and Nichelle Campbell-Miller. Non Voting members: Justin Sears and Katie Lugar.

**Absent:** None

**Approval of February Minutes** – A motion was made by Jacqueline Lower to accept the February minutes and was seconded by Nichelle Campbell-Miller. The motion passed.

## **New Business**

**Language Matters Consulting** - Mayor Sakbun came and discussed Language Matters, an Indiana-based consulting firm, that would assist the city in bridging cultural and communication gaps and improve accessibility for Haspanic residents. The firm proposed a Hispanic Municipal Welcomeness and Friendliness Reports which includes: Demographic research, data analysis and needs assessments of both city services and the Hispanic community, SWOT analysis of current city outreach and accessibility strategies, scoring of the city's perceived welcomeness and friendliness, and final recommendations. The proposed timeline would be 3 to 4 months, and a proposed flat fee of \$11,760. The commission was asked to review this information, and provide recommendations to Mayor Sakbun. No action was taken.

**Terre Haute Day Sponsor** - Courtney Chipol and Theo Morgan requested a financial sponsorship request from the HRC. These individuals came and discussed Terre Haute Day. They gave us the history and highlighted how much this event impacts the Terre Haute community. This event will take place on Saturday, June 15, 2025 at the Booker T. Washington Community Center. There were over 5,000 attendees in 2023. A discussion took place between commissioners thanking the individuals speaking and deciding on what sponsorship the commission would support. The Gold Sponsorship was \$3,000 with the following benefits: primary logo placement on all materials related to Terre Haute Day, primary logo placed on their website, verbal

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acknowledgment during sponsorship dinner and Terre Haute Day remarks, opportunity to display promotional materials, three social media shout outs, and four tickets to the sponsorship dinner. A motion was made by Nichelle Campbell-Miller the HRC be a gold sponsor of \$3,000 and seconded by Uzziah Hutchinson. The motion passed.

**Black Business Alliance** - A discussion was made about the Black Business Alliance which was launched by the Chamber of Commerce in 2021. While funding has run out for this initiative, the Chamber has continued some aspects of this alliance. The Chamber is now looking for a partner to help continue to potentially expand this work. The commission had discussions on potentially sponsoring a networking event, and Director Ryan stated she would be willing to facilitate a conversation with the Indiana Black Expo to bring a chapter to Terre Haute. There was no action taken.

**Women in Leadership** - Director Ryan expressed her interest in expanding her professional development with attending the Women in Leadership Mastermind 2025. This program supports women in leadership by fostering a result-driven, supportive community where participants can break through barriers and achieve growth in both personal and professional spheres. This would take place during monthly sessions (May-November) on the third Tuesday of each month from 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM. The cost would be \$125 per session, and the organizer is Amy Demchark. Director Ryan requested the approval of \$800 from the instruction budget to cover session costs. The commission agreed that this is a worthy conference for Director Ryan. Uzziah Hutchinson made a motion to approve the \$800 from the instruction budget to cover the session's cost, and was seconded by Amber Stewart. The motion passed.

**ADA National Symposium** - The 2025 National ADA Symposium will take place June 15-18 in Atlanta, GA, at the Hilton Atlanta. This annual event is widely regarded as the most comprehensive conference on the ADA and related disabilities law. This program also includes a "Find Your Fun Atlanta" day on Sunday, June 15, highlighting inclusive recreation and entertainment opportunities in the local area. Director Ryan requested the commission to approve her to attend this symposium. The cost would be \$1,500 from travel and \$800 from instruction. Commissioners discussed the manner, and decided it would be a great idea to send Director Ryan. A motion was made by Jacqueline Lower to approve the \$1,500 in travel and \$800 in instruction to send Director Ryan to the Symposium and was seconded by Nichelle Campbell-Miller. The motion passed.

**May 2025 and June 2025 Meetings** - Director Ryan requested that the commission consider rescheduling our regular monthly meetings in May and June due to upcoming travel commitments that will prevent her from attending on the currently scheduled dates. The

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commissioners discussed this manner and decided the meetings would be moved to the following dates: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM and Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM. This was motioned by Nichelle Campbell-Miller and seconded by Uzziah Hutchinson. The motion passed.

## **Old Business**

**Black History Month Recap** - Director Ryan shared with the HRC the success we received on the social media campaign for Black History Month. Director Ryan also shared that Suszy Quick with the Vigo County History Center has begun helping identify and compile biographical details about previous honorees. The long-term goal is to launch a webpage that will feature photos and stories from all past honorees, creating a lasting public archive. No action needed.

**Director's Report** – Every member received a copy of the Director's Report and Financial Report. Director Ryan attended many meetings and events during the months of February and March. Director Ryan attended the Human Rights Day at ISU, met with the Terre Haute Pride Center and Terre Haute Parks Department to discuss the 2025 PrideFest, attended the homeless coalition monthly meeting, and discussed the Human Rights Book club. Director Ryan also shared some upcoming events for the city and other organizations. A motion to accept the Director's Report was made by Uzziah Hutchinson and seconded by Jacqueline Lower. The motion passed.

**Statements from Commissioners** - Jacqueline Lower invited everyone to attend the Riverfront plan unveiling on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 4:30 PM, Hulman Center. Sandy Mutchler invited the commission to attend TableScapes 2025. This event is scheduled for May 16-17, 2025.

**Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Nichelle Campbell-Miller and seconded by Jacqueline Lower. The motion passed.