

RH Community Relations Council meeting - August 8, 2024

(Virtual due to storm - Microsoft Teams)

**Attending:** Shekinah Miller, Cynthia Ware, Maggie Schwiertert, Roxann Rawlinson-Ray, Kizmet T. Moore, Rena Hunter, Reginald Brackett.

**Absent:** Darryl Cunningham, Gemeta Anderson, Taninya Smith, Victor Street, Kiera Barber and Summersby Okey-Hamrick

**City Liaisons:** Jason Weil & Queen Lundy

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

Welcome: Shekinah asked for introductions, moment of silence, purpose review and approval of minutes. Our newest member is Kizmet Moore. The minutes were read and accepted.

We went out of order and discussed the New Business first.

## NEW BUSINESS

MLK - Shekinah had a suggestion for a theme “The Time is Always Right to do Right.” Rena suggested another theme for the MLK Breakfast “Our Lives begin to end the day we become silent about what matters.” Shekinah will reach out to GiGi regarding theme and see what ideas she may have. She also asked if anyone else had any ideas for a theme. Both speaker choices have been reached out to. Dr. Kimberly Johnson has responded, and Penny Brown Reynolds has NOT. Cynthia moved that we go with Dr. Kimberly Johnson as the speaker since she has responded, it was seconded by Reginald. Unanimous approval. At the end of September, we will start the solicit for bids for the breakfast. The essay won’t be sent out until then as well also due to the 1st of the school year being so hectic. Jason spoke about the accounting and budget that we have regarding CRC. He indicated that CRC still has one sponsor that has not issued a check yet. Question was asked about the amount being on par with previous years. This event raised more than past year Kizmet asked how we go about getting the bids for the breakfast. It was

explained that we extend an invitation to bid and accept the lowest bid. There was not a discussion on the Youth event.

## RACE EQUITY

Sept 9 will be the proclamation in the City Council Chambers for Race Equity Month. Any CRC member that wants to attend is encouraged to do so. The Food Truck Event is September 20 from 5 PM - 10; The Habitat Cleaning Event that CRC is contributed to for neglected cemeteries is on September 21; Wrap up of Community Conversation is tentatively September 26 during Race Equity Month. Jason asked what size base we need for the quilt. We will use smaller ones going forward with this year's event. The squares were explained to the new members and that the quilts will be on display at various events around the city that the CRC is involved in. All of the squares are different. Maggie asked about reimbursement for the sheeting and batting for the project, reimbursement will come from the CRC funds. Shekinah stated that we are going to do the quilt squares again but on a smaller scale (6/6) at this year at the Food Truck event.

## EQUITY IN ACTION UPDATE

Shekinah spoke about the cleanup and the partnership between CRC and Habitat for Humanity for getting the work done. The cemeteries are in Sunset Park, Heckle and Flint Street. There is a larger collective interested in this and CRC is interested in exploring being a part of it. It was also noted that one group already has approval for a marker at the Lincoln site; but lacks the funds to complete it. There is a fundraising effort going on right now for this initiative. September 13 & 14 is the International Festival at Saint Annes. The agenda and break down of their program are on their website. The link is: <https://stanneinternationalfestival.com/>.

## EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Shekinah thinks that we are doing a good job of being inclusive and we need to be a little more transparent and engaging in the community. We need to practice the principle of Community Engagement. Kizmet asked how we are marketing our September's engagements. It was explained that not all the events are CRC, but events that we are partnering with/promoting.

Robert Snipes wants us to participate in an event involving Muslims for the month of September also. Another event spoken about at the Retreat was the Facilitating Meetings Around Community Conflict training in Columbia at the Criminal Justice Academy. Jason asked those who want to go to let him know by Tuesday. Kizmet asked if we get participate in other Heritage months events/celebrations. We have not in the past, but it is something that we have talked about and want to do better with. She suggested that we branch out and acknowledge the other facets of our community. Shekinah says that's we are looking for more partnerships to be

inclusive. The PRT is having an open discussion at the Sports and Event Center about the new Regional Park at 6PM on August 19. Members are encouraged to attend if they could do so.

Rena asked about the CRC calendar. Jason explained that there is a google calendar that can be accessed by any member. Queen will send it out to the entire group after taking off those that are no longer on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02PM.