**Durham County Women’s Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 30, 2021**

Commissioners Present: Vivian Slade, Kirstyn Allen, Ruebe Holmes, Cynthia Bland, Laura Meyers, Brianna Van Stekelenburg, Tamika McRae, Patrice High, Courtney Kelly, Tiffani Reeves, Aquaris Anderson, Lucia Ferejohn, Cheryle Johnson, Shirrell Thomas

Commissioners Excused: Jenny Gomez

Commissioners Absent: K.D. Ann Welsh

**Welcome- Vivian Slade, Chair**

Vivian opened the meeting with the announcement that Milicia Tedder has resigned from the Commission effective immediately. Vivian has notified the Commissioner’s office of the vacancy; applications for new members will be open for 1-2 months. Tee shirts for DCWC have arrived and Vivian will distribute this week, please respond via email to select a meet-up time.

**Chair Report- Vivian Slade**

Vivian and Lucia have met and determined the 3 new committees to fulfill our new year goals and planned events. After announcing the following committees Vivian asked for members to select which they would like to join (please note as Chair, Vivian serves on each committee) and suggests 5-6 members on each.

1. Financial Health & Wellness: will include the social justice committee and their ongoing work. Vivan will ask Jenny and Lucia to join this committee. Job fair potentially planned for November or December of this year and may include Ray Trapp of RTP Foundation. Cheryle asked if this fair will be virtual or in person- this will be determined by the committee.
	* Members: Cynthia, Aquaris, Jenny, Lucia
2. Post-Pandemic Support: would like to see webinars, resource packets shared and possibly a resource fair in the spring, outreach initiatives (eg: rental assistance programs available)
	* Members: Tiffani, Patrice, Kirstyn, Ruebe, Brianna, Courtney
3. DV & Intimate Partner Violence: Collaborate with Durham agencies and organizations (like DCRC and SUSO) and our UNC partners to promote education and resources. Cheryl Ann mentioned the importance of including LGBTQ+ orgs in this work. Vivian has an immediate time-sensitive task for DV committee and will send out information after our regular meeting.
	* Members: Tamika, Shirrell, Cheryle, Laura

Vivian asks that committees meet within the next week to establish a committee lead and meeting schedule- please include Vivian on the schedule. Committee leads will also share with the whole group at each DCWC monthly meeting. (Other standing committees: Communications, Steering, Executive).

Vivan also shared the DCWC as a whole will continue to our commitment to CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women). The DCWC Executive Committee will meet soon to discuss applying for grants and possibilities of working with Helyne Frederick (UNC at Chapel Hill Human Development and Family Studies) with a focus on Black women’s health; more on this after Vivian meets with Ms. Frederick.

**Vice Chair Report- Lucia arrived late**

Vice Chair update folded in with Chair update.

**Treasurer’s Report- Brianna**

DCWC has $105.70 left of our $500 Durham County funds.

**Committee Updates**

* Social Justice Committee (Aquaris and Cynthia) update: Aquaris sent all members links for apprenticeship programs prior to our meeting; as well as a piece published by PBS on this topic.
* Steering Committee (Cheryl Ann, Patrice, Kirstyn, Lucia, Courtney, & Tiffani): Cheryl Ann shared takeaways from the latest Commissioners meeting; new budget passed- including a significant Affordable Housing Bond. Highlights from this bond: 400 first time home buyers will receive assistance, and 3,000 homes for current homeowners will be enrolled in rehabilitation programs. There is a newly appointed Citizen Safety Department, a collaboration with the Durham Police Department and composed of civilian members. A new Food Sercurty Coordinator was hired (Vivan shared she will be joining the DCWC at our September meeting).

Ruebe added great insight into the Housing Bond and the website Forever Home Durham; this will be rapid rehousing and resources over a 5-year timeline.
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* Communications Committee (Ruebe, Patrice, Courtney, Tamika, Laura) update: Ruebe announced the newly formed committee met and established social media goals (8 posts monthly, 2 times per week). Upcoming highlights include Hispanic Heritage Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness, and highlighting DCWC members weekly (if you would like to NOT be included on this please send Ruebe an email).

**Approve July meeting minutes**

Vivian called for objections; no objections raised; minutes approved.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Announcements:**

* Patrice and Cheryle will celebrate birthdays in September! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Y’ALL!!!!!

Vivian closed the meeting.