

**MEETING OF THE MONROE COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 5:00 PM  
Assessor's Meeting Room

1. Roll Call and Call to Order
  - a. With a Quorum Present the meeting was called to order.
  - b. Members present were: Sharon Ackerman, Byron Bangert, Doris Parlette (telephonically), Kathleen Sideli, and Darcie Fawcett. Staff present: Margie Rice, County Attorney.
2. Minutes for October and November meetings were approved unanimously.
3. Introductions were made and the members welcomed Darcie Fawcett to the Commission.
3. Old Business
  - a. Vacancies and appointments were discussed, acknowledging that the Commissioners would make appointments in the next couple of months.
  - b. Byron summarized the Fair Labor Initiative for the benefit of the members and the past discussions of the Commission were reviewed generally. A conversation was had about the pros and cons of undertaking this initiative now. The importance of emphasizing the reasons for the program and its history was discussed. The Commission agreed that it would be important to stress that the Initiative was intended to highlight restaurants' compliance with laws related to human rights and worker safety and that the Initiative was not part of a political agenda. The Commission decided it would be best to continue to wait until a full membership could vote on whether or not to share in the City's efforts, by modeling the City's program and utilizing their materials (but with the County's logo). In addition, it was discussed that waiting until the Department of Labor's investigation of Bloomington restaurants was complete made sense. It may be that launching a County Commission program at the same time the DOL announces its findings could provide momentum and highlight the Commissions' efforts. Margie Rice agreed to try and get an update on the DOL investigation prior to the next meeting.

- c. Kathy gave the Commission a summary of the very engaging speech given by Adam Foss, a prosecutor with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston, as part of Monroe County's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. She said the event was very well attended and organized.
  
4. New Business
  - a. The Commission reviewed Chapter 216 of the Monroe County Code, which puts in place uniform rules for boards and commissions. Margie Rice agreed to provide the Commissioners and Council this first report. Thereafter, the Commission would determine what type of report it would provide in January 2018.
  - b. The Commission discussed the election of officers. Byron moved and Darcie seconded the election of Sharon, Doris and Kathy as officers, giving them discretion to choose their roles. After discussion between Sharon, Doris and Kathy, the Commission voted unanimously to elect Kathy as President, Doris as Vice President and Sharon as Secretary.
  - c. Doris requested that staff send out to all Commission members the contact information and terms for all Commission members.
  
5. With no new complaints, no Commission nor public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.