

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG
59 EAST HIGH STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
JANUARY 5, 2023**

Chair Janet Riggs Called to Order the January 5, 2023 Human Relations Commission meeting at 5:15 PM. Those in attendance were: Chair Janet Riggs, Vice Chair Taurean Moses, Secretary Jennie Dillon, Janelle Wertzberger, and Pastor Caleb McClure. Others in attendance: Kara Riethmaier, Borough of Gettysburg HR Coordinator, Amelia Contreras of Manos Unidas, and Yeimi Bautista of Latino Services Task Force, Healthy Adams County.

November 22, 2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Guest Speakers – Open Dialogue

At this time, Chairperson Riggs invited Ms. Contreras and Ms. Bautista to speak about the services their organizations provide to the Adams County Latino community.

Ms. Contreras gave a background on the history of how Manos Unidas came about, and the services that they offer. Ms. Contreras spoke about the disconnect that she has witnessed between the local police force and the Latino community. Ms. Contreras stated that if there is an issue that warrants attention, most of the Latino community aren't willing to pursue a resolution on their own due to the unfair/unjust treatment they feel they receive from the authorities.

Ms. Bautista gave a background of her history with the Latino Services Task Force and what her hopes are for connecting people with the local agencies that can best assist them. Much of the conversation centered around the Latino community and their apprehension in communicating with local authorities. Vice Chairperson Moses asked if the Borough of Gettysburg currently employs any bilingual officers to assist with communication issues, to which Ms. Riethmaier answered that they do not. Ms. Bautista cited one issue for Latino's in the community is their un-comfortability to go to the Borough office on their own for services such as background checks which are only done at the Borough office.

Guest Speakers – Open Dialogue Cont'd.

Vice Chairperson Moses asked Ms. Contreras and Ms. Bautista if Latinos feel targeted here, to which Ms. Contreras answered 'yes'. Chairperson Riggs asked if there is a fear of lodging a complaint to authorities, about other authorities, for fear of retaliation, to which Ms. Contreras answered 'yes'.

Old Business & New Business

Old and New Business were tabled at this time, to be discussed at the next scheduled meeting of the HRC.

Future Meetings

Dates of future meetings were decided as: February 2, April 13, June 1, August 3, October 5, and December 7 2023.


Public Comment

No Public Comment

Adjournment

Chairperson Riggs adjourned the meeting at 6:22 PM. The next scheduled meeting is February 2, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jennie Dillon, Secretary