

Pottstown Human Relations Commission's

Quarterly Report Jan.-March 2016

In January of 2016 The Commission sponsored several events to promote outreach and educational activities that were cancelled due to in climate weather. The activities included a African Storytelling to engage the community in a participatory and educational venue. Two cases resolved

February 2016

The Commission spent quality time developing standards, guidelines and new additions to be made to the PHRC. Ordinance. To date, it has been a long and difficult task. We have continued to present information to the board regarding the state of Civil Rights in the Pottstown Borough and surrounding areas. During February, and Black History Month the Commissioners approved a presentation about "The Seven Principles of Kwanza" and the history and cultural traditions that prompted its founder to share the richness in African traditions. The Commission also met several times during the month to discuss the deficiencies that continue to create barriers to providing structured and stable programming and services to the public at large. We have continued to work collaboratively and to support outreach and educational venues that educate the public. These venues include "Bully", Dental health and general well-being, information about the Federal Fair Housing laws in place to assist those who feel they have been discriminated against. We have also researched information about the ills of Human Trafficking. Unifying the community through music, building strong bridges and alliances to promote inter-cultural, inner –faith communities. 3 cases I pending

March 2016

The Commissioners had a tele-conference call to discuss what issues and concerns are pressing. We agreed that securing a space for the Commission office and ensuring that we are able to do compliant intake, investigations, and bring some sort or reconciliation or resolution to their compliant under the provisions of Title 8, Title 7 and all other provisions allotted under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 1968 and the amendments of 1988, which included stronger protections for women and people with disabilities. While we are continuing to provide outreach /education about The Commission and what our mission is, we are also hoping and praying that The Borough Council would in good faith assist us by providing the aforementioned needs of this Commission. 2 cases pending

There is much work to do to obtain the basic but essential rights of those living in this community. Many who live in this community have no voice, suffering in silence they lose hope that no change will come. Thank you in advance for your anticipated attention to this very important matter.

Diana