



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION AGENDA
September 13, 2018 at 4 p.m.
City Hall, 222 Meigs Street

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

**Charlene Adams, Wendy Dobyms, Anthony Harris, Daryl Murphy,
Taylor Sutphen & Jennifer Washington**

CURRENT BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

- June 21, 2018

Staff Remarks

Chief John Orzech – New Hires/Introductions

Officer Lucas Rospert

Officer Ronta Hill-Morton

- **Talon Flohr - Neighborhood Initiative Coordinator**
Update on Neighborhood Initiative

Open Discussion

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING(S)

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 12 p.m., after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Wendy Dobyms, Anthony Harris, Taylor Sutphen, Jennifer Washington, Dominic Wells and Daryl Murphy

Members Absent: Charlene Adams

Ex-Officio members present: Lt. Scott Dahlgren (for Chief John Orzech, Police Department), Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator and Nicole DeFreitas, Sandusky Transit Administrator

Staff Present: Trevor Hayberger, Assistant Law Director & Kelly Kresser, Clerk

CURRENT BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Jennifer Washington and second of Daryl Murphy, the members voted to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2018, meeting and suspend the formal reading. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Staff Remarks

Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, provided an **update on the Sandusky Neighborhood Initiative** including green improvements made at the Venice Road connector (West end), the splash pad installation (South side), plans for the community garden at Victory Kitchen and play park improvements in Central Park (Garden District), new blacktop on Hancock Street and improvements to the community garden (Hancock Street corridor), the Cleveland Road Parklet (First through Fifth Streets) and signage and community art feature (Cove District). Daryl Murphy asked about the possibility of fencing to separate the new Cleveland Road Parklet from vehicular traffic and Talon Flohr said this concern was addressed early in the process and is the reason why this was not designated as a play park. Chairman Harris inquired about the Columbus Avenue/Campbell Street/Scott Street median improvements and Talon Flohr said this was designed to make the entire area safer for pedestrians.

Nicole DeFreitas, Sandusky Transit Administrator, said she has been on the job for about five weeks and is still learning. Her prior work experience includes four years in sales and marketing for the Jet Express boat line. Prior to that, she was a Zoning Inspector for the City of Port Clinton. Minor route adjustments are being made to SPARC stops and a Public Hearing is being held on June 28 to discuss the elimination of four stops because of low ridership. STS will also be proposing to add two stops on Tiffin Avenue. It is hoped these changes will increase efficiency with service and make our system more available for our residents. The downtown STS hub has been relocated to the Social Security office on Wayne Street; this is a more central location used to access other routes. They are also looking into uniform placards at each location/stop for

simplification purposes as well as new branding for the buses so they will be more easily identifiable. It is hoped the number of shelters can be increased through grant funding. Many businesses are provided discounts for their employees to increase ridership and we hope to re-engage the conversation with Cedar Point about a discount program for their employees.

Open Discussion

Daryl Murphy asked about the **disposition of an issue brought before the CRC by Shameka Moore-Owens**. Chairman Harris said a second inspection did take place, as requested. Because he has not heard anything more from Ms. Moore-Owens, he assumes this issue has been put to rest. Trevor Hayberger said a list of violations was provided to Ms. Moore-Owens during this inspection and indicated he would follow up to make sure this was resolved.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chanel Harper said she has been represented as a bad person in the community. She did get into trouble in 2006 at the age of 23 and served two years and nine months after pleading guilty under the advice of the Public Defender. She said she served her time, is a changed woman and wishes to help others. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities has told her they will be terminating services and will not help her to get a job. She has tried to get assistance to find employment with numerous organizations as she does not want to go back on the streets. She understands the police cannot control her, but they can control how other people see her and this is very unfair. She has great respect for the police and most know she is different since having brain surgery and that she is not a bad person. Chairman Harris said he feels Chanel Harper has been oppressed by the community and will help her in finding employment and/or help her to find agencies where she may be able to volunteer. Lt. Scott Dahlgren said he will meet with Chanel Harper to see what he and members of the department might be able to do to assist. Chairman Harris said members of the CRC are here for the citizens and the public should know the members care about them. Nicole DeFreitas said she will follow up with Ms. Harper as a punch card can be provided by the STS for the purpose of going to job interviews.

Daryl Murphy asked if there are **additional new Police Officers** to be introduced and Kelly Kresser said she will follow up with Chief Orzech for the next meeting.

Dominic Wells announced this is his last meeting as he will be relocating to Atlanta in August, 2018. He stated he has appreciated the opportunity to work for the city and with this Commission.

Daryl Murphy stated he will be unable to attend meetings at the 12 p.m. because he will be changing shifts with his job. After discussion, the members agreed to **change the next meeting to Thursday, September 13 at 4 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Dominic Wells and second of Jennifer Washington, the members voted to adjourn at 1 p.m. Chairperson Harris declared the motion passed.

Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk
Date: ____/____/____

Anthony Harris, Chairperson
Date: ____/____/____

DRAFT