

Schenectady County Human Rights Commission

Public Information and Education Committee

Commissioner Monica Arias Miranda, Chair

Commissioner Tony Gaddy, Co-Chair

Monthly Committee Report

June 2010

Summary

Overall comment to the Commission is what has already been said, that there is a tremendous opportunity to increase the work the Commission does and the audience we reach. Specifically, if the amount of traffic (calls, etc.) that is being seen at the office is 95% not related to Human Rights issues (as Mr. Wright has noted), then this is something we need to look at and address. 100% of traffic should be Human Rights Related.

PIEC continues to research current Commission (this refers to policy making body & office staff) practices and processes.

- The overall impression based on the information we have so far, is that we could benefit from improved communication and the implementation of more structured process.
- There does not appear to be any office procedures in place at this time.
- Executive Director's Monthly Reports need to be revised to include more detailed information on office (staff) activities, including financial data.
- There does not appear to be a process for tracking financial data and activity at this point.

Brief Updates

- Community Forums are being planned to start in September 2010.
- Commissioner's Retreat is still being planned for later this year (end of summer).
- Office Procedures Manual to be implemented based on Commissioner's support and feedback. Further details to come.
- Meeting with Communication Director has been requested to start working on website.
- Press Release & Newspaper story on Annual Breakfast: no reply from Gazette. We can still include this information in the website with detailed info on award recipients.

PIEC Meetings

- PIEC Chair has talked to County Finance (Mr. Zyzh & Mr. Mancini) about Commission's budget/and Trust Fund.
- A financial report has been requested from Mr. Wright indicating Commission's activity and balance for that fund. The report that was submitted on 6/15/10 does not accurately reflective this information.
- Meeting with Susan Savage may be scheduled in the next couple of weeks to share PIEC goals and seek Legislative support.

The Committee's goal is to inform and educate County citizens about the Commission's work and mission through media coverage, speaking engagements and distribution of printed material.