

**Louisiana Commission on Human Rights  
Minutes  
Tuesday August 16, 2011  
11:30 AM  
US Mint  
400 Esplanade Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Members Present:**

Angela Faulk  
Tamara Jacobson, Chairwoman

**Members Absent:**

Marshall Brumfield  
Eursla Hardy  
Rev. Willie Littleton  
Rev. Kirby Verret  
Alvin Roche, Jr.

**Staff Present:** Loyce Pierce Wright, Christa Davis, Dr. Leah Raby, George Simpson, EEO Specialist, and Attorneys Lillian Thornton and Albert Thibodeaux, EEO Specialists

**Guests Present:** Attorney Keith Hill, Field Director, New Orleans Field Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Mr. Turry Flucker, Program Director Program Director of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board and the Louisiana State Museum

Chairwoman Jacobson called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and requested a roll call. There was not a quorum.

Chairwoman Jacobson began by thanking the Commissioner, staff and guests for attending the meeting. She extended commendations to the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) for its collaboration with the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board and the Louisiana State Museum in bringing the Race Exhibit to New Orleans. Chairwoman Jacobson indicated that the agenda would proceed with Mrs. Wright providing the Executive Director's report and then a tour of the exhibit.

Mrs. Wright began her report acknowledging the special guests, Attorney Keith Hill, Field Director of the New Orleans Field Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Mr. Turry Flucker, Program Director of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board and the Louisiana State Museum. Mrs. Wright indicated that Mr. Hill will speak about the EEOC's work and the LCHR's partnership and Mr. Flucker will provide an overview of the exhibit prior to viewing, respectively.

Mrs. Wright proceeded with the report by providing an overview of the case inventory. She stated that at the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal years, LCHR closed 98 cases wherein several resulted in monetary settlements totaling \$142,673.00. Mrs. Wright reported that the case inventory is 221 and that nine cases were recently closed at the start of the July 1, 2011 fiscal year, with monetary settlements equaling \$8,750. She stated that 16 cases were needed to meet the EEOC contract and that 74 cases had been closed, in addition to 18 intakes being completed and only one left needed to fulfill the contract requirement. She affirmed that the contract would be met prior to the Federal fiscal year on September 30, 2011.

Mrs. Wright reported that assistance was requested and approved by the Governor's Office in helping to reduce LCHR's current inventory. LCHR has increased its staff with two third year law students, Ms. Kimberly Persley and Mr. Karlus Cozart, who are designated to assist the Intake and Investigative Units in processing incoming complaints, drafting charges, conducting initial screenings and interviewing complainants. She indicated that the Governor's Office allocated \$16,000, which covered the timeframe of July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 to pay the law clerks.

She stated that the budget for fiscal 2011-2012 has been approved by the legislature; however, LCHR's specific allocation had not been received from Governor's Office to date and that the \$16,000 allocated for the law clerks was subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Budget; approval was granted.

Mrs. Wright mentioned that she reported Dr. Raby presented before the United States Commission on Civil Rights regarding issues addressed by LCHR and that the presentation also focused on the growing global problem that has surfaced in the Baton Rouge area, Human Trafficking. She stated that Human Trafficking issues have placed Baton Rouge as one of the top ten cities with this problem in the United States. She indicated that Katherine Green, LCHR's assigned attorney from the Attorney General's Office is actively involved with the Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking, and was presently in Africa addressing the issue on an international level. Attorney Green has agreed to present at LCHR's next Commission meeting.

Mrs. Wright concluded her report announcing that LCHR is proposing to host the 2012 International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies conference in New Orleans. She stated that LCHR hosted the conference in 2002 in New Orleans and that it was stated to be the best conference the organization had held. LCHR has secured the support of key elected officials and of private, federal, state, and local entities. She indicated that members of the commission would be asked to assist and participate in hosting the 2012 conference.

Mrs. Wright then extended the invitation to Mr. Hill to speak.

Mr. Keith Hill shared an overview of the work of the EEOC and expressed his gratitude for the work the LCHR has done over the years. Specifically, he stated that with the increase in employment discrimination cases being received by the EEOC and with the expanded statutory authority, the partnership with the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights has proven to be invaluable. He stated that LCHR has been a tremendous help in alleviating some of the caseload of over 2000 cases for 14 EEOC investigators in the state of Louisiana. He further stated that several of LCHR's cases have been recommended for litigation because of how well the cases had been investigated. Mr. Hill said that many do not recognize the amount of time and effort that is taken to investigate a complaint of discrimination, from gather documents to interviewing witnesses in order to insure a fair and impartial decision. He believes that it is important for constituents of the state of Louisiana to know that when they seek the services of either the EEOC or LCHR, honesty and integrity are the values by which each case is investigated. Mr. Hill also applauded LCHR for being engaged in Human Trafficking, as it is a new issue of concern for the federal government, as well. He concluded his comments by stating that the EEOC and LCHR's mission is not just to eliminate discrimination in the workplace, but to help eradicate any form of discrimination present.

Prior to viewing the Race Exhibit, Mr. Turry Flucker, Project Director of the Louisiana State Museum spoke briefly about the history of Louisiana State Museum and introduced the Race Exhibit. In his overview about the Race Exhibit, he indicated that it became a traveling exhibit in 2008 and that it is comprised of three segments, the History of Race, the Science of Race and Race in the Contemporary Society. He presented a film for review entitled the Color of Fear by Lee Mun Way, which led to a brief discussion about race.

Before the close of the meeting, Chairwoman Jacobson asked if there was any New Business. There was none.

The meeting ended at 1:30 p.m. and then attendees toured the Race Exhibit.