### 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF 2013 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES 9 JANUARY, 2013 CONFERENCE ROOM COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT: Richard Coles Sara Collins Bishop Nicholas Sykes Alistair Walters Chairman Member Member Member

# APOLOGIES: N/A

#### SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden Michael Ebanks Josephine Hislop Manager, Commissions Secretariat Analyst, Commissions Secretariat Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

#### 1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:36p.m.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes The minutes of 3 December, 2012 were approved.

### 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

### a. Debrief International Human Rights Day

In recognition of International Human Rights Day the Manager hosted a special segment of Radio Cayman's Talk Today Programme. Guests for the programme were Alistair Walters (HRC member) and Peter Gough (Strategic Advisor to the Deputy Governor). Mr. Walters discussed the meaning of International Human Rights Day, human rights in the Cayman Islands, the role of the Commission and mediation in terms of resolving human rights complaints. Mr. Gough discussed the various efforts being made by the government with regard to human rights.

Additionally, former member Cathy Frazier distributed informational material at the A. L. Thompson's store (George Town) while member Sara Collins distributed informational brochures at the Fosters Food Fair Strand location and conducted three interviews with various media representatives.

The Commission wishes to publicly thank the management of A. L. Thompsons and Fosters Food Fair for their cooperation in allowing it to have a presence at their respective locations.

#### b. Meetings on Migrant Policies

The HRC will seek to meet with relevant government officials to discuss this issue as a matter of priority.

#### c. Marine Query

The Chairman will review the research prepared in respect of this matter and instruct the Secretariat as how to proceed.

#### 4. New Business

## a. 2012 Annual Report

Feedback has been received from all members, and the report adjusted accordingly. All members have signed off on the report, which will now be forwarded to the Deputy Governor's office for it to be laid in the Legislative Assembly; after which time the document will be available to the public on the Commission's website.

#### b. Request from Caymanian Bar Association (Student Chapter)

The CBA's Student Chapter has requested a meeting with the Chairman and members of the Commission to discuss the feasibility of the Student Branch assisting with a human rights related project. The Commission has agreed to invite the representatives to the end of the next Commission meeting.

#### c. Adoption Law

Correspondence will be sent to the relevant Chief Officer to enquire as to the reasons for the exceptionally long time it has taken for some adoption cases to be completed. Additionally, the HRC will take the opportunity to examine the Adoption of Children Bill 2012 as regards human rights implications.

### d. HRC Volunteer Mediators

Currently, only one qualified mediator has formally expressed interest in volunteering to support the Commission in providing a forum for mediation services in human rights complaints. The HRC remains open to hearing from interested mediators.

#### 5. Human Rights Complaints

#### a. Update on Human Rights Complaint 004/2012

The HRC continues to review the documentation attached to this complaint and will correspond accordingly with the relevant parties.

#### b. Human Rights Complaint 011/2012

The HRC received additionally documentation in respect of this matter, and will continue discussions accordingly.

#### c. Enquiry of Human Rights

The Commission received an enquiry regarding the extent to which someone's specific human rights could be monitored; however no formal complaint was submitted. The Commission will correspond with the relevant party to discuss their findings.

### 6. Any Other Business

### a. Enquiry of Human Rights

The Commission received updated information on an enquiry received at the last meeting which was referred to the Elections Office.

## b. Request from St. Ignatius Catholic School

The school has requested a presentation to the Year 8 students regarding the Constitution with a focus on human rights and rights of children. The HRC will correspond with school administrators to facilitate the presentation.

## a. Policy and Procedures Manual Amendments

Minor amendments to the policy and procedures manual were finalised and approved. The updated version will be uploaded to the website.

## 7. Action Items

The Secretariat will:

- a. arrange the meetings re migrants with the relevant officials;
- b. arrange to have the 2012 Annual Report laid in the Legislative Assembly;
- c. arrange for members of the CBA's Student Chapter to attend the next meeting;
- d. research the Adoption of Children Bill 2012 for human rights implications;
- e. draft correspondence dealing with complaints and enquiries; and
- f. arrange the presentation with St. Ignatius.

## 8. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Migrants Policy meetings
- b. Adoption of Children Bill 2012
- c. Outstanding Human Rights Complaints
- d. CBA Student Chapter Project

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 6 February, 2013 @ 3:30pm.

# 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

Mr. Richard Coles CHAIRMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION