

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
5 FEBRUARY 2015
CONFERENCE ROOM
CAYMAN CORPORATE CENTRE

PRESENT: James Austin-Smith Chairman
Lisa-Ann Hurlston-McKenzie Member
Reverend Donovan Myers Member
Ben Tonner Member

APOLOGIES: Chelsea Frazier-Rivers Member

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:
Deborah Bodden Manager

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm.

2. Welcome to New Member

The Chairman officially welcomed new member Ben Tonner to the Commission. He has been appointed by Her Excellency, effective 1 February 2015 for a term of three years.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The 17 December 2014 minutes were approved.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Outstanding Research Projects

Deportation and Prohibited Immigrants

It was agreed that should members have any final comments on this report they will be submitted by 27 February 2015, following which the report will be published.

b. 2014 Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Report has been submitted to Her Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Deputy Governor has confirmed it will be laid in the first sitting of the House.

c. 2015 Strategic Plan

Members were asked to further consider, by 6 March 2015, what goals/work the Commission wishes to achieve for the 2015 year.

d. Presentation to OCC

The Chairman's presentation to the staff of the OCC on 18 December 2014 was well received. The discussion focused on the role human rights play in the complaints process and how staff of the OCC can ensure they are human rights compliant during that process.

e. Meeting with HM Prisons Inspectorate Team

The Chairman and Manager met with the HM Prisons Inspectorate team, on 12 January 2015. The discussion focused on prison-related issues/concerns of both parties. The HRC will, as a result, write to various senior government officials to query plans for the treatment of prisoners in Cayman.

5. New Business

a. CI Fire Service Grooming, Hygiene and Personal Appearance Policy

The CI Fire Service requested the Human Rights Commission review their Draft Grooming, Hygiene and Personal Appearance Policy to ensure compliance with the Bill of Rights. Following a discussion on the content of the policy the HRC agreed on comments which will be submitted to the Acting Chief Fire Officer for his consideration. The HRC is encouraged by the CIFS's approach in this regard and thanks them for the opportunity to comment.

b. Interview with CayCompass

Two reporters from the CayCompass have made arrangements to interview the Chairman. The first is in relation to the recent lecture series facilitated by the Student Association of the Law School. Whilst the HRC provided comments in writing to the reporter already further background information is being requested. The second is in relation to the goals/work of the new Commission.

6. Human Rights Complaints

a. Update on Human Rights Complaint 014/2013

Members were updated on this complaint. No further action by the Commission is necessary at this time as the public authority is working with the complainant to resolve the matter.

b. Update on Human Rights Complaint 019/2013

Members were updated on this complaint. No further action by the Commission is necessary at this time as the public authority public authority is working with the complainant to resolve the matter.

c. Update on Human Rights Complaint 006/2014

Members were updated on this complaint. No further action by the Commission is necessary at this time.

d. Update on Human Rights Complaint 014/2014

Members were updated on this complaint. The Commission will follow-up with the public authority who the Commission communicated with in mid-December.

e. Human Rights Complaint 001/2015

The Commission considered the complaint form and supporting documents in this matter and agreed there was no evidence of a breach. Correspondence will be drafted and the file closed accordingly.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

8. Action Items

Members were asked to:

- a. Submit comments on the Draft Deportation and Prohibited Immigrant Report by 27 February 2015;
- b. Consider and submit the goals/work of the Commission for the 2015 year by 6 March, 2015.

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. Amend, if required, the draft Deportation and Prohibited Immigrants according to feedback when received;
- b. Draft appropriate correspondence following the meeting with the HM Prisons Inspectorate Team;
- c. Draft appropriate correspondence following the review of the CIFS Grooming, Hygiene and Personal Appearance Policy; and
- d. Draft appropriate correspondence for HRC complaints.

9. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Deportation and Prohibited Immigrants
- b. 2015 Strategic Plan
- c. New and Outstanding Human Rights Complaints

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC is scheduled for 12 March 2015 at 2:30pm at the offices of the Commissions Secretariat.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.



James Austin-Smith
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION