

CITY OF LIMA  
JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS AND  
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT  
JUNE 05, 2024 @ 6:30 PM  
Council Chambers

**CALL TO ORDER**

The joint Neighborhood Concerns and Economic & Community Development Committee met on June 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call showed the following Committee members present: Peggy Ehora, Thomas Jones, Derry Glenn, Jon Neeper

Others in attendance: Jamie Dixon, Carla Thompson

**ITEM OF DISCUSSION**

1. Human Relations Commission

Peggy Ehora opened the meeting to discuss the Human Relations Commission. Peggy read Chapter 256 - Human Relations Commission. Neeper referred to the recommendations made in the Economic & Community Development Committee Meeting Report of June 15, 2020 that were never put in place. Discussion was held regarding the anti-discrimination ordinance that was passed in 2020 and the fact that the Human Relations Commission verbiage was not updated per the Motion in the June 15, 2020 report. President Dixon advised he will contact Tony Geiger to discuss the motion to amend the Human Relations Commission description per the Motion made on June 15, 2020. Councilor Jones recommended changing the school representatives to reflect all of the current schools in the City of Lima. Ehora cautioned making a decision to add other school representatives without having those discussions. Thompson recommended including youth representatives to sit on the commission as opposed to specific schools. Dixon advised the current language states a "representative of the school recommended by the principal of the schools" so it could be a student rather than administration. Ehora expressed the importance of making the language simpler and up to date.

President Dixon advised the reason this issue was originally referred to committee in 2020 was because that was when the George Floyd situation happened and David Berger issued a statement to that effect. He explained he has re-referred the issue because there has been an influx of a new population in the community and there is a need to re-establish the Human Relations Commission so there is a way to communicate and mediate the conversations that need to be had so individuals in this community are not taken advantage of. He further explained with the influx of Haitians into the community, they are seeing landlords and employers taking advantage of them in this community. Councilor Thompson referenced the importance of having the education piece. Councilor Ehora explained she has never understood why the City doesn't have a service available where anyone can come to the City with the issues regarding housing and various other issues. She doesn't believe the Human Relations Commission has any teeth in the matter. Councilor Ehora inquired about the purpose of the Commission and what will the members be tasked to do.

Councilor Thompson explained Human Relations Commissions are common and do have some authority to handle complaints and could determine what the outcome could be. She further explained the Commission would be able to vote and apply a remedy that would be legally binding and could provide education. She believes a lot of things are already in place, it's just a matter of connecting the dots. Councilor Glenn referenced the recommendation of a Human Relations Commission after the Tarika Wilson shooting. Thompson referenced the previous push from Administration to get the County on board but later found out that legally the County cannot. President Dixon referenced the issuance of subpoenas. Ehora recommended finding a modern day example of what the Human Relations Commission looks like. She doesn't believe it is practical to appoint 18 people to the Commission without having clear and concise instructions and duties being provided. Thompson referenced the various Cities who currently have Human Relations Commissions. Councilor Neeper expressed the need to re-write the duties of the members. Discussion was held regarding compensation for positions on the board as it will be a working Committee. Thompson reiterated the Human Relations Commission has not been active for many years and when the George Floyd incident happened, and questions were being asked on how the City is to respond, it was brought up to re-establish the Human Relations Commission. She explained the purpose of the Human Relations Commission is to deal with diversity in a positive way. Jones explained we can't have a current event and create a lifestyle upon it. Thompson explained diversity needs to be dealt with on a daily basis and the purpose is to make sure there are policies in place all of the time, not just when it is favorable or the topic of the week.

Neeper recalled the last meeting was held in January 1976 and recommended Council talk to Tony Geiger to discuss the legality of the permissions given to the Commission. Dixon recommended the Committees review the information that is to be sent by Councilor Thompson and for the Committee Chairs to discuss the potential powers of the Commission with the Law Director. Discussion was held

regarding the amount of members. Neeper expressed his concerns with the members being paid positions until he knows what the position duties entail.

Ehora moved, seconded by Glenn, for the Committee to review the sample Human Relations Commissions as provided by Councilor Thompson and for the Committee Chairs to discuss the legalities of the Commission with the Law Director and to schedule a second meeting. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ehora moved, seconded by Neeper, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

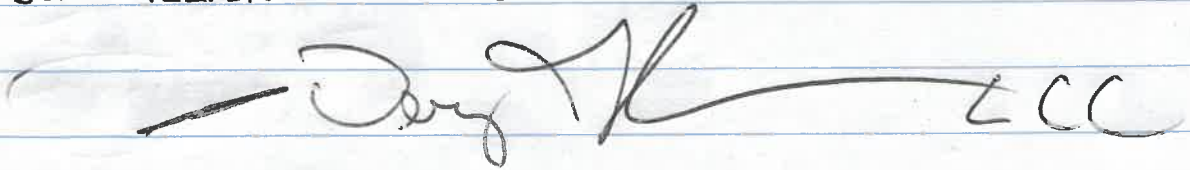
Councilor Thomas Jones  
TJ:da

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS / ECONOMIC / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

6/5/24

6:30 PM

JON NEEPER — LCC

 LCC

Thomas Jones

Peggy Elton - LCC

Jamie Dixon - LCC

Carl Thompson - LCC