

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
August 24, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the special meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 5:34 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Adrienne Brietfelder Indigo Channing	Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair Shirley Templeton Vaughn
Absent:	Fred Davis Miquel Jackson	Kate Parks
Staff:	Kelly Larson Carol Spinoso	Taj Suleyman

Discuss Responding to Jones/Terminal Streets Graffiti

The Commission met to discuss graffiti that was found Monday, August 21st by a city employee on the floodwall and gate near Terminal and Jones Streets. Some of the graffiti was racist and hateful in nature. It was determined that the graffiti likely happened between July 21 and 9:30 a.m. Monday.

Commissioner Schiesl read a statement he prepared in response to the incident:

"We do not know the intent of the individual or individuals that drew/sprayed the graffiti on the flood wall. But, based on the symbols and words that were used it would appear to be a message of intimidation, to imply power over a race of people, and to say Black people are not welcome in the Dubuque community.

What we do know is that these words and symbols are deeply offensive and hurtful to our Black Dubuquers. A message that is perceived to be a message of intimidation, power, and racist should not and will not be tolerated in Dubuque. I am deeply saddened by this message of intolerance and hate in our community. While the city continues to project an image of diversity and tolerance, events such as this remind us that racism still exist in our community and we still have much work to be done."

Commissioners felt it important that they call this type of behavior out, taking a stand that it's not acceptable. The community needs to be true about racism in the community, and speak to it when it occurs. It was noted that that this was the 3rd racial incident in the last year and four months. They need to focus on collaboration, and at the local level be very proactive. They would like to see the City Council, Dubuque Community School Board, and all citizens of Dubuque be accountable in affirming their vision for an inclusive and equity community.

Commissioner Templeton Vaughn moved to accept Commissioner Schiesl's statement and add that we would like to see collaboration with agencies that serve minorities, and see more action from our City Council and School Board. Seconded by Commissioner Channing.

After further discussion, the group wants to include collaboration with the general citizenry of Dubuque, and a reference to the proclamation that was issued about being a welcoming community.

Commissioner Templeton Vaughn restated her motion to accept Commissioner Schiesl's statement and include Kelly's notes. Commissioner Channing seconded. Roll call:

Anthony Allen - Yes
Adrienne Brietfelder - Yes
Indigo Channing – Yes

Jay Schiesl - Yes
Shirley Templeton Vaughn – Yes

All in favor.

The Commission asked staff to issue the statement as soon as possible. Kelly will prepare the statement, send to Anthony and Jay for approval, and will then send on to the City Manager for approval prior to sending to the media.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Schiesl move to adjourn; second by Commissioner Channing. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____