

**CITY OF RAPID CITY  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

DATE: Wednesday, January 24th, 2018  
TO: Legal and Finance Committee  
FROM: Jacqueline Gerry, Chair  
RE: Semi-Annual Report – January 2018

**CASE STATUS UPDATE- CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE** (August 2017 – December 2017)

The Commission was updated on the pending employment complaint as well as a possible housing complaint. Determination of Probable Cause Re: Case No. 2017-03 – Commission’s recommendation was to follow City Attorney’s Office recommendation to dismiss.

City Attorney’s Office received 12 telephone calls during this time period. Of these call 4 resulted in a meeting with City staff. The remaining calls have been referred to the State or other organizations who are better suited to help.

**COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Ainslie shared with the Commission that he sent his resignation to the Mayor to be effective in October 2017. Shad Storm, approved by the City Council September 2017 was sworn in as a new commissioner. Approved by the City Council September 2017 Merton B. Tice, Jr. was inducted for a new term. Commissioner member Al-Haj submitted her letter of resignation to be effective December 2017. Seth Mallot, approved by the City Council November 2017 was sworn in as a new commissioner.

New officers were elected: Chair – Jacqueline Gerry, Vice Chair – Diane Cleveland, and Administrative Officer – Shad Storm.

**COMMISSIONER TRAINING AND IN-SERVICE**

Assistant City Attorney Rogers explained definitions of sexual harassment and reviewed a handout provided the Commission along with identifying examples of different types of harassment. She also shared EEOC guidelines, state statistics and educated the Commission on their role in different situations.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PLANNING**

Public Service Announcement titled, “Rapid City, Together We Can!” developed with Tim Reilly of Midco airs on local cable channels, KOTA TV, Black Hills Fox KEVN, KELO TV and on the public access channel. Printing additional brochures about the HRC was approved. As the domain name [rapidcityhelp.com](http://rapidcityhelp.com) from Midco will no longer be free of charge, the Commission recommended that it be discontinued. Commissioner Storm volunteered to attend the U.S. Department of Justice forum on Rapid City Hate Crimes to discuss how the Human Relations Commission can be used as a resource in our community. The Human Relations Commission advertised in The Native Sun News during the weeks of December 11-15 and December 18-22 and an allocation was approved for

the advertisement. A School Outreach Project is a campaign to educate school age children on discrimination. This project has yet to be defined and no time line has been set. A new local organization, "One Rapid City" advocate for persons who have concerns on discrimination. City Attorney staff discussed with them what meets the criteria and how the process works and what we need to see to have a valid claim. The Commission would like to create a more interactive way of reaching out to the community such as a Facebook page. Staff explained and referenced the technology resource usage policy for the City. The Commission would like to post educational information. This project has yet to be defined and no time line has been set.