

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Cuyahoga County Human Resources Commission
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Lakeside Place Building.
323 W. Lakeside Avenue, Suite 400
5:00 p.m.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wolff called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2) ATTENDANCE

Chairman Robert Wolff, Commissioner Angela Simmons, Commissioner Kathleen Palmer, Administrator Rebecca Kopcienski, Coordinator Jessica Vezina, Assistant Prosecutor Dave Lambert, Assistant Law Director Amy Marquit-Renwald and Assistant Law Director Ed Morales.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT – Nothing Submitted

4) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Domestic Partner Benefits Ordinance No. 02011-0042

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Palmer noted that Councilman Dale Miller advised her Council requested a definition of domestic partner and procedures for implementing new policy. Commissioner Palmer confirmed that we would be voting on the content in Sections 1, 2, 3 & 4. Administrator Kopcienski advised the Ordinance will be considered again in Human Resources, Appointments and Equity Committee of Council on Friday, 2.10.12 and Council is hoping to have HRC input by then.

The Commission discussed and agreed that in addition to what was requested by Council they would provide suggestions to modify certain Whereas provisions in the Ordinance. Commissioners disagreed on language contained in the Whereas portions of the ordinance but agreed they would suggest adding language to the “Whereas” provisions that makes a statement of the fact that same sex partners cannot be legally married in Ohio.

Commissioners agreed the age of 23 contained in Section 1 should be corrected and language added “as provided by state or federal law” and to add “if it were not for the laws of the state of Ohio which prohibit same sex marriage, my partner and I would be married” to the affidavit language. Additionally the requirement of common residence for at least 60 days should be extended to 6 months.

Commissioner Palmer made a motion to make recommend adding language to the statements on the affidavit to require persons to also agree that “if it were not for the

laws of the state of Ohio which prohibit same sex marriage, my partner and I would be married”, and to change the age limit in the ordinance to comport with state and federal laws regarding health coverage for dependents, to increase the length of time for partners to share a residence from sixty (60) days to six months and to suggest adding language in the “Whereas” provisions that makes a statement of the fact that same sex partners cannot be legally married in Ohio; seconded by Commissioner Simmons and approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Wolff made a motion to recommend to Council that if they need to broaden the definition of domestic partner to increase likelihood of Council’s passing the ordinance, the HRC would endorse this; seconded by Commissioner Palmer.

Administrator Kopcienski called the vote:

Chairman Wolff – Aye

Commissioner Simmons – Nay

Commissioner Palmer – Aye

5) EXECUTIVE SESSION: Collective Bargaining Discussion

Chairman Wolff made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining; seconded by Commissioner Palmer, approved by unanimous vote.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT – Nothing Submitted

7) OTHER BUSINESS – Nothing Submitted

8) ADJOURNMENT –

Chairman Wolff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. No objections.

Next Human Resource Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at Lakeside Place (323 W. Lakeside Avenue, Suite 400)