

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. COMMISSION  
36 FLAT ROCK DRIVE, RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877  
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012  
12:30PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mark Robinson, Vice Chairman  
Carol Anderson  
Sarah Diaz  
Rodney Matthews  
Ben Rhodes  
James Williams  
Diane Paige-Blondet  
Joseph Teal

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dennis King, Chairman  
William L. Dixon  
Rev. Bradford Howard  
Hilda Santiago

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jim O'Neill, CHRO, Secretariat to the MLK, Jr. Commission

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Mark Robinson convened the Special Commission Meeting of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission called by members Mark Robinson, Sarah Diaz, Diane Paige-Blondet, Benjamin Rhodes, Joseph Teal, and Rodney Matthews to order at 12:35 p.m.

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**III. MOTION 2:**

The Commission by consensus agreed to address Motion 2 first. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt Motion 2. Seconding the motion was Commissioner Diaz.

The following is motion 2:

*The CT Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission agrees that a letter should be drafted from the Commission to the Governor of Connecticut, conveying the recommendation of the Commission to appoint a new Commission chairman, effective immediately.*

Discussing the motion were Commissioners Williams, Robinson, Paige-Blondet, and Teal.

On a roll call vote the motion passed 8 to 0, with four members absent and not voting.

Vice Chairman Robinson stated he would draft a letter to Governor Malloy regarding Motion 2 and circulate it by email to the Commissioners.

#### **IV. MOTION 1:**

Commissioner Paige-Blondet made a motion to adopt Motion 1. Seconding the motion was Commissioner Teal.

The following is motion 1:

*The CT Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission acknowledges that the Hord Foundation of Danbury, CT made a commitment of eight (8) tables at its February 25, 2012 fundraising gala based on information provided by the Commission. The Commission further acknowledges that since these tables were never paid for, the Hord Foundation experienced an unnecessary financial loss of approximately \$6,500. Therefore, the Commission agrees to use whatever necessary funds in its account or at its disposal to reimburse the Hord Foundation for this loss. To this end, the Commission shall instruct the CT Department of Administrative Services to issue a check to the Hord Foundation for this purpose.*

Discussing the motion were Commissioners Williams, Robinson, Teal, Anderson, Diaz, Paige-Blondet, and Teal.

Following discussion Commissioner Teal withdrew his second on Motion 1 and Commissioner Paige-Blondet withdrew her motion to adopt Motion 1.

#### **V. MOTION TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE:**

Commissioner Williams moved that Motion 1 be tabled until the Commissioners could be provided with legal advice regarding the actual legal obligations of the Commission regarding the Hoard Foundation event on February 25, 2012. Commissioner Paige-Blondet seconded the motion.

The Commissioners requested that Jim O'Neill ask CHRO Executive Director Bob Brothers, Assistant Attorney General David Teed and Tony Jannotta, Legal Counsel to the Governor for a legal opinion on whether the Commission was legally obliged to pay the Hord Foundation; if the Commission was ethically responsible to pay the Hord Foundation; whether such payment under either obligation is legal under state statutes; and what the effects of such action over

two fiscal years would have on the Commission's ability to carry out its responsibility.

On a unanimous voice vote the motion to obtain legal advice before acting on Motion 1 was adopted.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion.

On a unanimous voice vote the motion to adjourn was adopted at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by  
Jim O'Neill, CHRO, Secretariat to the MLK, Jr. Commission

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<b>Motion #2</b> The CT Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission agrees that a letter should be drafted from the Commission to the Governor of Connecticut, conveying the recommendation of the Commission to appoint a new Commission chairman, effective immediately.			
	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>NP</b>
Carol Anderson	X		
Sarah Diaz	X		
William Dixon			X
Dennis King			X
Bradford Howard			X
Rodney Matthews	X		
Diane Paige-Blondet	X		
Benjamin Rhodes	X		
Mark Robinson	X		
Hilda Santiago	X		
Joseph Teal	X		
James Williams	X		

Commissioners who are not present at the meeting will be indicated by “NP”

Commissioners who abstain from a vote will be indicated by “AB”