



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Onondaga County/Syracuse Human Rights Commission

Monica Williams
CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 11th Floor East
421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202

Main Phone: 315.435.3565
www.ongov.net/humanrights

Montanette Rocker
DEPUTY CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

MINUTES: PENDING APPROVAL
ONONDAGA COUNTY/CITY OF SYRACUSE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 21, 2025, ONONDAGA COUNTY/SYRACUSE HRC Meeting

_Hassina Adams (resigned 5/21/2025)	_Agnes McCray
_Lauren Rosenstein	_Roosevelt Baums
_Paul Harvey	_H. Bernard Alex (HRC CHAIR)
_Mary Grace Almandrez	_Duane L. Reese II

Absent: Lauren Rosenstein, Roosevelt Baums

Present: H. Bernard Alex, Mary Grace Almandrez, Paul Harvey, Agnes McCray and Duane Reese.

County staff present: Deputy County Executive for physical services Cydney Johnson; Chief Diversity Officer Monica Williams; Deputy Chief Diversity Officer Montanette Rocker; Human Rights Specialist Anthony Heard.

Opening: In-person session at Central Library began at 5:33 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction: Chairperson Alex opened and called the meeting to order.

Community members present: None

Discussion: Chairperson Alex discussed three items of interest that the HRC could become active in: An Assembly Bill; the taking down of I-81 and how the takedown is "impacting CNY at its core;" Participating in a march to honor and remember the fifth anniversary of the death of George Floyd. The Commission discussed whether the incident at Westhill High School involving its Lacrosse Team was an item to take up. Commissioners decided it was not an item they wanted pursue.



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Onondaga County/Syracuse Human Rights Commission

Monica Williams
CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 11th Floor East
421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202

Montanette Rocker
DEPUTY CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

Main Phone: 315.435.3565
www.ongov.net/humanrights

Other discussions included contacting Syracuse Police Department Accountability Officer Jawwadd Rasheed and discussing 21st century policing in the city of Syracuse.

Commissioners discussed the 11 year old girl who was detained by the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in January of this year. Commissioners discussed reaching out to the Sheriff's Office for conversations with the HRC and community members about the role of the Sheriff's Office's Police Unit, what policies have been implemented, does the Sheriff's Office develop relationships with the community and how does the Sheriff's Office develop relationships with the community. Commissioner Harvey thinks the Sheriff's Office should have a civilian law enforcement oversight.

*Assembly bill A03118 that "prohibits handcuffing or forcibly restraining children age twelve and under and unless such child presents a danger to such child, the officer or others."

Commissioner Harvey will contact a lawmaker who is associated with Assembly Bill 3118 to ask what help Commissioners can do related to the Assembly Bill.

*I-81: A group of Commissioners attended a public information meeting about the removal of the I-81 pillars. Commissioner McCray said she appreciated the atmosphere and tone of the I-81 meeting. In addition, regarding I-81, there will be public, open meetings about the work associated with getting the roads done; information about the viaducts; discussions about water filters, stick tacks and other items that will be made available to residents who are directly affected by I-81. The NYS Department of Transportation will visit with community members of 10 or more regarding I-81 questions or concerns.

Other items: Commissioners discussed getting metal and magnetic name tags. The ODI will look into the cost of magnetic name tags. Commissioner Almandrez inquired about the protocol regarding Commissioners interacting with the media. **Upcoming HRC events:** HRC made aware of annual Pride Flag Raising at Syracuse City Hall and in the town of DeWitt.

Meeting ended at 6:42 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Montanette Rocker on June 3, 2025