



## **Durham Workers Rights Commission Meeting 4.22.2025- Virtually via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Commissioner Luster, Vice Chair Powell, Chair Ballan, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Pedersen, Commissioner Reinstein, Commissioner Medelius, Commissioner Morell, Commissioner Fenerty

### **Agenda Items:**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment.

### **MINUTES/OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Note: DWRC minutes for March were moved and approved at 6:09pm
- B. The mission of the Commission was shared by Chair Ballan
- C. Follow-ups on Old Business

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

- Council Member Nate Baker attended the meeting and shared his interest in learning more about the operations of the Commission.
- Chair Ballan asked Commissioners to share their experiences with lack of support with the absence of a Council Liaison
- Commissioner Luster shared his experiences:
  - a. No Real time ability to inquire about resources
  - b. The lack of support/guidance has created gaps in the success of the Commission
- Vice Chair Powell shared his experiences:
  - a. Lack of support from the Council appointing a Liaison shows how the Council feel about the Durham Workers
  - b. Thank you to Council Members Rist and Baker for being present for support of the Commission on their own time
  - c. Hard work was put into creating the commission so that Durham Workers' voices could be heard
  - d. Since Council Member Johnson term expired, the commission has not been supported in any capacity
  - e. The City Council and City Managers missions are not in full alignment with the mission of the Workers of Durham
  - f. The DWRC mission is representing what the Workers need in Durham
  - g. The work of the Commission deserves to be taken seriously
- Council Member Baker shared his thoughts:
  - a. Recapped the happenings of the Labor concerns within the Council meetings
  - b. Want the DWRC to be empowered so issues can be resolved
  - c. Shared his support of the Commission and is available for all questions
- Commissioner Medelius shared his thoughts:

- a. Shared his experience on MHLC without a Liaison
    - i. It was difficult to get issues resolved
  - b. Getting a Liaison on board as soon as possible will show the Council the strategies of the commission
  - c. A resolution to request Liaison support should be created to ensure the support of the Commission
- Commissioner Pedersen asked for details in the process of obtaining a Council Liaison
- Council Member Baker stated that Mayor Williams can easily appoint him as the Liaison of the Board
- Commissioner Luster stated that Council Member Baker would be a great fit as the Board Liaison
  - a. A vote of solidary to support Council Member Baker as the Liaison
  - b. A motion was made for a vote of solidary for Council Member Baker to become the Liaison of the Commission
    - Motion passed at 6:30pm
- Chair Ballan stated that the email will be sent ASAP to Mayor Williams for his approval of having Council Member Baker as Liaison.
- Chair Ballan stated she had a great conversation with Donte\* from UE150
  - a. Continued support from the Commission is welcome
  - b. Brainstorm on issues to be resolved for Durham Workers
- Vice Chair Powell shared his experience of working with UE150:
  - a. It's vitally important to maintain a close relationship with UE150 and other Workers' Rights groups
  - b. Shared the startup of the commission and the work in the beginning on the Commission; productive and effective
- Commissioner Luster shared the idea of asking UE150 representative to be part of the meetings in the future
- Commissioner Medelius stated that the collaboration of different unions would help with the outreach of the commission
- Chair Ballan asked the Commissioners thoughts on Outreach
  - a. Vice Powell shared his experience of building relationships throughout the years
  - b. DWRC has an 'X' account, inquiry of the Facebook account and if it is still active
- Commissioner Luster stated he will research who had the social media credentials
- Commissioner Medelius and Commissioner Taylor drafted a resolution in support of Amazon workers
  - a. Election in Garner; unsuccessful
  - b. Solidary resolution for the Council to say "Amazon workers, you are encouraged to organize, and we stand with you"
  - c. Link was put into the chat to review the drafted resolution
  - d. Commissioner Taylor added that Amazon workers have been retaliated against. The resolution would be helpful
  - e. The next big campaign will be Durham based; it would be great if the Council were in support
- Commissioner Luster asked Council Member Baker if the Amazon Resolution would be possible to be endorsed by the Council if presented
- Council Member Baker stated that it would be powerful, questions may be asked, but there is a great possibility of support

- Chair Ballan shared her screen to share the drafted Resolution
- Commissioner Pedersen shared his thoughts:
  - a. Wanted clarity on parts of the drafted Resolution
- Commissioner Medelius shared that the statement was put in place in case of retaliation
- Commissioner Pedersen gave his thoughts on if action was taken it would be out of the range that the board could ensure to happen
- Commissioner Luster agreed that it is important to set realistic boundaries and standards
  - a. Commissioner Taylor also agreed.
- Commissioners discussed revisions to the Resolution, asked Council Member Baker on his input
  - a. Council Member Baker stated he wanted more clarity of the rights of workers' outside of City/County workers
  - b. Vice Powell shared he would like to know what the City Council priorities is as they pertain to Workers' in the area
  - c. Council Member Baker shared his thoughts on the subject and agreed with Vice Chair Powell
    - i. He shared the relationship between different organizations to support the DWRC
- Commissioner Medelius resumed the revisions of the resolution
  - a. A motion was made to amend the resolution
  - b. The motion was accepted at 7:10pm
  - c. Council Member Baker shared the process of the resolution coming before the Council
  - d. Further discussion will be within GroupMe
- Vice Chair Powell gave his final thoughts and thanks to all those on the Commission
  - a. He shared information within the chat
  - b. Shared to read 'Robert's Rules of Order'
  - c. Remember your Rights

#### FOLLOWUPS-

- A. Commissioner Luster to inquire about credentials of Social Media
- B. Discussion of members of the Commission to be present at outside meetings
- C. Vote for the new Vice Chair for next meeting 5.27.25

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS-

- A. Commissioner Luster congratulated Chair Ballan for her leadership

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:27pm**

**Next meeting: May 27th at 6pm via Zoom**

**Respectfully Submitted by: Ashlee Adams, Secretary to Workers' Right's Commission.**