

To: Mayor Robin I. Oda and Troy City Council

From: Marvin Major, Chairman, Troy Human Relations Commission

Date: January 3, 2023

Subject: 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of the City of Troy Human Relations Commission (HRC), and in compliance with Section 135.04 of the City of Troy Codified Ordinances, I am pleased to forward the following review of the HRC's 2022 activities.

The current HRC appointees are: Kenny Block, Kane Feltner (Secretary), Sonia Holycross, Jon Keller (Vice-Chairman), Marvin Major, Sr. (Chairman), Ruby Villalobos, and Todd Severt. At the first meeting in January 2023, the Commission will be electing a new chairperson.

Initially, the HRC formed committees; however, the Commission decided to dissolve the committees and convene ad hoc committees for further discussion and/or consideration of possible recommendations to the HRC regarding proposed initiatives.

The Commission meetings have been held bi-monthly on third Thursdays, with few exceptions. The HRC has continued inviting speakers of the local organizations to their meetings to discuss prevalent issues related to human relations in Troy and any resources or partnerships available to them to enhance inter-group relationships within the City.

The HRC webpage allows community members to contact the Commission via email or fill out a form to report a complaint or issue related to the HRC's Chapter 135.05 list of duties. The HRC received a few complaints that were forwarded to the appropriate governmental body for investigation.

The Commission reviewed and updated Operating Guidelines and the HRC brochure that will be distributed among the local organization.

Two years in a row, the HRC helped to plan the Juneteenth walk and celebration. The Commission continues to be part of the Juneteenth planning committee and hopes the event will grow yearly.

In conjunction with local historians, the HRC worked on three projects related to the African American history of Troy:

- The first project was successfully completed, and two interpretive signs were placed at McKaig & Race Park, honoring five prominent African American community members: Charles Ross, Perlema and Grace Sewell, Charles Sharett, and Lucille Wheat.
- The second project was to obtain a marker through the Ohio Historical Markers program to honor 54th and 55th Regiments African American soldiers buried at the Soldiers Circle at Riverside Cemetery, Section 11. Unfortunately, the application for the marker was denied; however, the Commission has decided to recommence the application process for 2023, which will involve a more extensive research process.
- The third project is to create a self-guided walking map of significant sites in African American history of Troy. The Commission has started compiling information and plans to complete the project by the end of 2023.

The members of the HRC are proud of the work that's been accomplished during past two years and the seven (7) members remain committed to fulfilling the duties outlined in Chapter 135. I am available for any questions or concerns and would be glad to make myself available for a presentation to you and Troy City Council at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Marvin Major, Sr.
Human Relations Commission, Chairman