



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Councilors
From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Date: July 23, 2013
Re: Joint Meeting – Community Relations Commission Update

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Community Relations Commission (CRC) was created in 2003. The purpose behind the CRC's creation was to promote the equal treatment of all individuals, to discourage discrimination and to promote harmony. The CRC consists of 15 members: eight appointed by the Mayor and seven appointed by the Chairman of the County Commissioners.

The core mission of the CRC is to study problems of discrimination, protect basic human and civil rights, and to conduct and promote activities that foster mutual respect. The CRC does not have a line item within the City or County budget. Funding has previously been done for project-specific requests by the CRC. The City has acted as the CRC's fiscal agent and has sponsored several grant requests.

It has been 10 years since the CRC was established. A review of their purpose and mission is appropriate. Questions, which may be discussed during the joint City/County meeting on July 29, 2013, are:

1. Should the mission of the CRC be changed?
2. Do we need to clarify their role and purpose?
3. Should the CRC be provided an annual funding allocation from the City and County?
4. What needs are not being met by the CRC?

Representatives of the CRC have been invited to attend the joint City/County meeting to provide an update on their activities.

RCO/vdw