

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

September 17, 2015

### Commission Members Absent:

H. Taylor Walls  
Catherine Hyde  
Ilene Kessler  
Ivette Lopez

### Commission Members Present:

Ivan Betancourt  
Bianca Chang  
Frank Eastham  
Opel T. Jones, I  
Tim Johnson  
Rev. Turner  
Giovanna Guarnieri

### Staff:

Stephanie M. Chapple, Recording Secretary  
Barry Sanders, HRC Legal Counsel  
Dr. Barbara J. Sands, Executive Secretary

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 pm. In the absence of Chair and Vice Chair, motion has been made for Frank to Chair the HRC meeting.

#### 2. PUBLIC FORUM –

#### 3. HRC CASES UPDATE – LEGAL COUNSEL – Appeal was denied for HRC Case No. 15-06-005

#### 4. APPROVE MINUTES

July meeting minutes were approved.

#### 5. CHAIR'S REPORT –.

#### 6. COMMITTEES/ REPORTS

- *Finance and Fair Lending* – No report.
- *Legislation* – *Ivette* – No report.
- *Education & Community Outreach* – *Frank, Rev. Turner* – 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Harriet Tubman High School in Laurel, MD. The African American Community Roundtable held a Parent Forum at Celebration Church to inform parents re. the Parent Concern process for Howard County. The next Roundtable Forum will host a Fall Education Forum on 9/28 at 7 p.m. at Howard High School. Frank/Rev. Turner will let Commissioners know about upcoming forums.
- *Law Enforcement* – *Opel & Tim* – Tim will offer his services to the HCPD re. Sensitivity Training as it relates to the LGBTQ community. The training should last approximately 90 minutes. Tim will confirm with Dr. Sands re. dates. Dr. Sands met and had discussions with the Police Chief, Lieutenant, Deputy Chief, and Major regarding concerns, training, etc. with the Police Academy as well as with veteran officers.
- *HRC Awards Program* – *Ivette and Bianca* – Two nominations have been received. Stephanie will re-circulate the nominations to everyone. Nominations will be discussed at the October meeting. The updated nomination forms are on the county's website under the Office of Human Rights tab.
- *Human Trafficking Task Force* – *Dr. Sands* – Members of the Anti-Human Trafficking Commission met on Sept. 2nd. Members from Safe House, Hope House, and other agency representatives came to join the meeting and offer more information. There are funds being set aside for victims. OHR is partnering with several other counties, as well as the state to combat this heinous situation. 32 representatives from various agencies attended this meeting.
- *LGBTQ Committee* – *Catherine* – No report.
- *Housing* – *Ivette and Ilene* – No report.
- *Aging & Disability Matters* – *Bianca* – Stephanie circulated information re. 50 Plus Expo being held on 10/16. This is an all-day expo specifically geared for Howard County's aging population to receive information, free gifts, and learn more about all of the services Howard County offers to its citizens.
- *Health Care Access* – *Bianca* – No report.
- *Student Life (New Committee)* *Taylor* – No report.

#### 7. STUDENT REPORT – Frank will work with Ivette to schedule student interviews for the HRC Student position.

8. STAFF REPORT/UPDATES – Dr. Sands discussed cases filed in OHR, HBI's, etc. MLK Commission is moving forward with 2016 Event Plans, annual program, and day of service. African-American Pioneers of Howard County planning committee will continue to meet to discuss upcoming programs for 2016, LGBT documentary "The New Black" screening will be held on 9/17 at the Bain Ctr from 6 – 9 p.m., 10/15 at the Roger Carter Community Ctr., 10/29 at the Howard County Central Library. Training for Investigators with OOL ongoing, as well as, training for Intake Investigator.

9. NEW BUSINESS – Stephanie now serves on the Commission on Disability Issues, mandated by the County Executive. She will speak to Bianca and share information as it relates to the Disability Matters Committee. Commissioners voted to purchase a

plaque in recognition of Genevieve's service as Chair of the HRC. Stephanie will oversee this project and bring the plaque to the October meeting. A thank you letter and certificate of appreciation will be sent to Sal Hussain for his years of service.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES – Mohammed Shiraz Ahmed, HRC's newest Commissioner will attend his first meeting in October.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.