

Howard County Human Rights Commission

Census/Voting Committee Report, March 19, 2020

Kui Zhao, Mabrooka Chaudhry, and Musa Abdul-Aziz Jafri

Kui Zhao joined the Howard County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee (CCC) members at the April 7 meeting. Kui notes are provided as follows. In addition, Kui has posted Census messages on social media (Facebook and WeChat) for one dozen times and suggest that fellow commissioners do it to broadcast that it is easy, safe, and important to participate in Census 2020. Kui also translated Census messages into Chinese to educate the Chinese community about census and census date shall not be used discriminate them.

Daniel Jones, the Census Bureau: Updates

- The Census Bureau extended the Census 2020 operations to August 14, 2020, due to outbreak of COVID-19. However, the apportionment data are still due the U.S. President on December 31, 2020. The redistricting data are due all states on April 1, 2021.
- The non-response field canvassing enumeration is rescheduled from May 13 to May 28, 2020.
- The homeless point in time survey is changed from April 16 to May 1, 2020.
- Other group quarters population enumeration is rescheduled from April 2 to June 5, 2020.
- The Bureau will began distributing the paper form in the week of April 13, 2020.
- The Census Bureau has many yard signs for people to use to promote Census 2020.

John Watson, Maryland Census Coordinator: State strategies

- The state has begun advertising campaign on TV, radio, and billboards above interstate highways within Maryland.
- The state complete count committee will convene at the end of April discussing repurposed strategies under the COVID-19 circumstances. Meanwhile, the state CCC will conduct small group meetings by the state region (Western Maryland, Central Maryland, Eastern Shore, and Southern Maryland).

County Government Representatives

- The Department and Parks will place 100 English signs on part properties, although park gates are closed. All parks remain open allowing foot traffic. The Chinese signs that I translated will be posted on the county parks as well.
- The County can provide Census advertisements to publish on foreign language newspapers but needs to know the number of subscribers.
- The County will insert Census messages in the school meal distribution centers.

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE REPORT
April 16, 2020

The Immigration Committee consists of Chair, Joan Hash; Co-Chair, Scott Markow; Co-Chair, Lynda Earle; Commissioner Peter Hwang and Commissioner Leslie Salgado

The committee is tasked with investigating the following two issues:

1. Whether to recommend termination of an existing detention contract between ICE and the Jessup Detention Center which is located in Howard County, Maryland
2. Whether to recommend that immigration/ citizenship status are added as a protected class under the Howard County Human Rights Code.

In spite of disruption and devastation by Covid-19; our work continues.

Leslie Salgado has set up an interview with immigration lawyer, Nick Steiner. This meeting will take place on April 27, 2020, at 4:00pm

On February 23, 2020, Immigration committee members attended the Coalition on Immigration Justice presentation about the inequities of immigration policies and how unfair treatment by the Howard County Detention Center specifically and negatively impacts detainees and their families.

As a result, the Committee identified speakers who were previously detained and who shared their experiences at the event. The Committee is actively seeking to interview individuals who have been detained in the facility. Leslie Salgado is in the process of verifying first and last names of prior detainees.

Lynda Earle has secured an Interview with Renee Battle-Brooks, Executive Director of the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission. The Immigration Committee will conference with Ms. Battle-Brooks on June 8, 2020, at 1:30pm.

The Committee has previously met/communicated with officials and people affiliated with the Howard County Executive's Office; Howard County Chief of Police; New York Human Rights Commission; Montgomery County Executive's Office; The Howard County Detention Center; Human Rights Commission open Hearings; immigration groups.

Thank you to the Immigration Committee for all of the hard work that has been done thus far.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynda Earle, Co-Chair

HOWARD COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 11, 2020

MEMBERS: Scott Markow (Chair), Peter Hwang, Joshua Kaufman, Musa Abdul-Aziz Jafri

The Committee members met on April 11, 2020 to decide how to report on active legislation at the federal, state, and county level. We decided to issue monthly reports starting with the Commission's May 2020 meeting as follows:

Federal – Considering the volume of federal legislation, for 2020, we have decided to focus on four subject matter areas pertinent to human rights:

- Hate Crimes
- Immigration
- Housing
- Civil Rights/Liberties

We will also only report on bills that have been moved to floor consideration in one of the chambers or are further along in the legislative process. We will issue a federal report bi-monthly.

State – Since the 2020 legislative session has ended, for this year, we will report only on passed legislation relevant to human rights. Starting in 2021, we will report monthly on pending and enacted legislation during the legislative session. We will issue this report for our May 2020 meeting.

County – We will report monthly on pending and enacted legislation relevant to human rights. Our first report will cover all of 2020.

