

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes  
July 18, 2019

Mr. Ford called meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Ford, Chair, Bianca Chang, Kui Zhao, Scott Markow, Joan Hash, Peter Hwang, Hector J. Garcia, and Leslie Salgado-Tamayo

Staff Present: Mr. Norman Parker, Acting Legal Counsel, Chaunta Taylor, Recording Secretary, and Yolanda F. Sonnier, Esquire, Executive Secretary

Mr. Ford announced that the Agenda order was changed, moving the closed session to the end of the meeting due to recording purposes, Approval of the minutes will go first followed by the Public Forum.

Commission members approved unanimously the June 20, 2019 minutes at the July 18, 2019 meeting.

**Public Forum:** Ms. Daisy Prasad, a former sales consulting in new home sale department for the community, noticed when she worked for 3 different national builders they were adding excessively high Lot premiums on the East and North East facing home sites. Per Ms. Prasad, they knew that the Indian culture who wanted to live in the community and for religious reason wanted homes facing those particular sides and the builder took advantage of them by charging higher premiums on Lots facing those areas. Ms. Prasad asked the Commission what this will take to be seriously looked into.

**Board Comments:** The Board suggested contacting the Builders Association. Bob stated that HRC would need to contact legal counsel to see if anything could be done on their end.

**Public Forum:** Ms. Jean Xu, from the Chinese American Parent Association of Howard County (CAPA) was invited by Stephanie Chapple and she came to observe. They are advocates for the Chinese community and specialize in the school system. Their members serve in different communities and their current focus is working on the upcoming census.

**Board Comments:** Peter asked, how can we help as a Commission and if CAPA had monthly meetings and can HRC attend. Ms. Xu stated she would like to learn more about what HRC does because there are times the Chinese community reach out to them for assistance. Bob added with our Outreach expanding with the new Office of Human Right Administrator hopefully we will be able to attend CAPA meetings.

## Reports

**CHAIR:** Bob welcomed Yolanda Sonnier, Executive Secretary and Chaunta Taylor, Recording Secretary as new members to the Human Rights Commission. Bob offered the floor to Yolanda to introduce herself. Mrs. Sonnier gave a brief introduction about herself and stated her vision of Outreach and making sure the community is aware that not only does this office exist but educating the community as well.

**Committees:** Please review reports prior to the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the reports submitted, please bring your questions to the meeting. (\*\*Reports submitted)

✚ **Finance and Fair Lending with Housing:** (Scott)  
Scott had no report to submit, he asked that we revisit the committees to see if they are all still needed.

✚ **Legislation:** (Bob/Kui) – No reports on even months

✚ **Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee:** Vacant

- ✦ **HRC Awards Committee:** (Bianca/Hector) – Audio Issues
- ✦ **Human Trafficking Committee:** (Peter/Joan) Joan suggested since HTC is no longer under the Office of Human Rights the committee will try to find other avenues to connect.
- ✦ **LGBTQ Committee:** (Bob) Bob spoke about The Howard County Pride and how it was very successful, and he thanked all the volunteers on the Commission for their support. Bob also, discussed that with voter registration one will no longer have to pick Male/Female, one can choose X.
- ✦ **Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee:** (Bianca) No Report
- ✦ **HRC Goals Committee:** (Peter/Bianca) Peter spoke on coming up with Outreach goals and discuss any overlap. They want to sit down with the Outreach committee with OHR.
- ✦ **Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee:** (Peter/Joan) Peter discussed how interviews were conducted in the past. The County Executive Office (CEX) made the decision; however, they allowed HRC to have a voice, because the Commission appreciates being involved. Yolanda asked if the Commission is advocating to continue the past process. Peter stated yes, he would like to continue the same process. Joan chimed in giving a brief description of the past process. Yolanda stated she will follow up with CEX and confirm with Peter and Joan.
- ✦ **Community Outreach Sub-Committee:** (formed following CR-180 Study) (Peter/Hector)

**Student:** No report

**Staff:** Yolanda, discussed the OHR CEX Report, events that OHR attended and upcoming events. Bob asked for the HBI numbers. Yolanda stated she will follow up with Mary Campbell, OHR Compliance Officer and Legal Counsel. A few questions had audio issues.

**New Business:** Leslie inquired about new commissioner orientation; Joan stated a few commissioners received training, but it took a year to receive it. Yolanda stated she will look into the orientation.

**Announcements:** None

Mr. Ford announced Commission going into **CLOSED SESSION** at 8:31 p.m. all members approved.

Mr. Ford announced Commission going back into **OPEN SESSION** at 9:01 p.m.

Joan requested that the panel list be emailed to the Commission.

Mr. Ford adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.