

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

January 18, 2018

### Commission Members Present:

Reverend Turner, Chair  
Joan Hash  
Bianca Chang  
Kui Zhao  
Bob Ford  
Hector Garcia, Jr.  
Scott Markow  
Peter Hwang  
Sharon Jeon

### Commission Members Absent:

Opel T. Jones  
Shiraz Ahmed  
Shivan Aghera

### Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary  
Dr. Barbara J. Sands, HRC Executive Secretary  
Cynthia Peltzman, HRC Legal Counsel

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### 2. PUBLIC FORUM – N/A

#### 3. CLOSED SESSION - The Commission moved to go into Closed Session (see attachments) to discuss HRC Case No. 17-12-012 and 17-12-013 and obtain advice from Legal Counsel.

#### 4. APPROVE MINUTES – December minutes approved.

#### 5. CHAIR'S REPORT – See Chair's Report.

Chair Turner requested assistance for scribes to draft correspondence regarding (a.) inviting HCPSS Superintendent to an upcoming meeting and (b.) follow-up correspondence to County Council regarding CR-180 Study final outstanding items, & deadline date for completion of those items. Joan volunteered to draft correspondence for CR-180. Dr. Sands volunteered to draft correspondence inviting Superintendent to a future meeting.

#### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance & Fair Lending with Housing – *Scott/Shiraz* – New committee chairs will report on housing initiatives that affect county and state citizens. Committee will also share information on legislation, housing laws, etc. and relevant information from Annapolis. Per Dr. Sands, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Provisions Act will be held on 4/28 in Montgomery County. Additionally, there are a number of events planned this spring. Fliers will be forwarded.
- Legislation – *Bob/Kui* – Please see Kui's hard copy Legislative report submitted. No new legislation on the county or state level relevant to human rights. At the federal level, 2 bills just **Became law**:
  - H.R. 1242 – 400 Years of African American History Commission Act became law on 1/8/18
  - H.R. 2989 – Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act became law on 11/2/17

Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – *Reverend Turner, Opel* – Four county-wide conversation circles being held Feb. through May, with culminating event on 6/4, 6:30p at SJBC. Number of churches and congregations are having conversation circles around race. Each faith community will host a dialogue session, as well as facilitate these difficult conversations by bringing the community together. Emphasis is to not let our differences divide us, but to become more inclusive as a community. Flier will be circulated.

- HRC Awards Committee – *Bianca, Opel, Hector* – Commissioners Joan, Bianca and Kui attended the Annual MLK Celebration. Date for HRC Award program is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in April (same night as our regularly scheduled meeting) in order for all members to attend and participate.
- Human Trafficking Committee – *Peter, Shiraz and Joan* – Per Peter, periodic review with HCPD is coming up. Meeting will be scheduled in upcoming weeks.
  - ACTION - please bring KITS to the February meeting. Per Joan, all items needed to complete KITS are available at Walmart.
- LGBTQ Committee – *Opel, Bob* – Per Bob, please see hard copy report submitted and circulated.
- Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – *Bianca* – per Bianca, number of enrollees for qualified healthcare program in Howard County is 9500, which is good, but lower than last year. Additionally, Howard County

Coalition for Health has been working on numerous issues to assist residents. The Behavioral and Psychiatric Care at HCGH is moving forward and working well.

- HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Rev. Turner – Per Chair Turner, committee members should meet soon to firm up what the committee wants to do this year re. outreach, conferences & training, determine who will attend which events, etc. Rev. Turner’s assistant will coordinate with Stephanie to determine possible dates. Peter will follow up with community organization engagement initiative. Commissioners should give their ideas, input to one of the committee members before the next meeting.
- Nominating Committee – Shiraz, Peter, Joan, Shivani – No report.
- Student Report – Sharon has been working with students at her school, teachers and some administrators on Cultural Proficiency, learning about the program, as well as, how the program is implemented at each school. Hector and Peter volunteered to work with Sharon and assist her with her project.

7. STAFF REPORT – See written report submitted. OHR and Community Action Services are working with community members on “Train the Trainer” to assist Human Trafficking victims. Targeted date for training is June. HRC members will receive training from PIO regarding communication, website.

DISCUSSION – Re. CR-180 – the report is now expired. Per Commissioner Joan, remaining follow up items will be completed. Once those are submitted, this project is complete. Commissioners agreed that, following CR-180 study, members would create a committee to analyze and assess the problems that were identified during the course of that study. Per DR. Sands, request for funds for next fiscal year for travel were submitted in budget.

- ACTION – Commissioner Peter will draft name of committee, scope, and objective. Commissioner Joan recommended that members should bring their ideas and/or suggestions for discussion during the February meeting.

DISCUSSION – MaCO (Maryland Association of Counties) Conference will be held in August. One Commissioner is encouraged to attend. More information will follow. IOAHRA Conference will be held in November in Cleveland, more information will be forwarded. Goals Committee members will ensure representation at conferences and events.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS –

- Chair Turner covered meeting attendance. Commissioners should notify Stephanie or Reverend Turner if you are unable to attend the meeting. Per Dr. Sands, if members are unable to attend the monthly meetings, he/she should consider if they are able to serve at this time. Moving forward, for 2018, after two consecutive unexcused absences, notification will be sent to member as a reminder. Following three consecutive unexcused absences, recommendation will be put forth for Commissioner to be replaced. Commissioner Joan read Rules of Procedure regarding absences.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS – Congratulations to Mellissa who is doing well and home with family. Commissioner Joan reminded members to please submit nominations for HRC Award to Bianca.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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