

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

July 16, 2015

Commission Members Present:

Genevieve Walker-Lightfoot
Ilene Kessler
Ivette Lopez
Bianca Chang
Catherine Hyde
Opel T. Jones, I
H. Taylor Walls

Commission Members Absent:

Tim Johnson
Frank V. Eastham, Jr.
Rev. Turner

Staff:

Stephanie M. Chapple, Recording Secretary
Barry Sanders, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. Pursuant to HRC Legal Counsel's request (Barry), HRC will discuss cases first, prior to the guest speakers' presentation which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC FORUM** – Charlene Allen and Razia Kozi from the HCPSS Office of Cultural Proficiency were invited by Commissioner Frank Eastham to discuss the role of the office, as well as to share the history, objectives, and trainings offered. Additional information regarding classroom work, present and future goals, managing conflict, valuing diversity, focus groups, teacher evaluations, professional development, and visions for 2018 were also highlighted and shared with members.

3. **HRC CASES UPDATE – LEGAL COUNSEL** – HRC denied appeal for 15-06-006. No decision was made at July HRC meeting regarding 15-06-005. Discussion of this case will resume at the September HRC meeting.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

June meeting minutes were approved.

5. **CHAIR'S REPORT** – Genevieve gave no report. Taylor informed Commissioners for the record that if this was Genevieve's last meeting, this would also be her last meeting.

6. COMMITTEES/ REPORTS

- *Finance and Fair Lending – Genevieve* – No report.
- *Legislation – Ivette and Genevieve* – Ivette reviewed legislation on state's website, everything is in recess. Nothing much is happening on the state or county level.
- *Education & Community Outreach – Frank, Rev. Turner* – No report.
- *Law Enforcement – Opel & Tim* – No report.
- *HRC Awards Program – Ivette and Bianca* – Ivette and Bianca working on nomination letter and nomination form. Form lists eligibility criteria, and instructions for supporting narrative. Gen suggested adding the Office of Cultural Proficiency to the nomination list to receive an HRC Award. Please email Ivette if you'd like to nominate a specific organization.
- *Human Trafficking Task Force – Genevieve* – No report.
- *LGBTQ Committee – Catherine* – No report.
- *Housing – Ivette and Ilene* – Ilene will bring in more information and details to the September meeting. Congratulations to the Supreme Court for saving the Fair Housing Act.
- *Aging & Disability Matters – Bianca, Genevieve* – Genevieve found an article concerning the LGBT community and Aging matters. Will share article at next meeting.
- *Health Care Access – Bianca* – Bianca thanked Stephanie for sharing and forwarding information on the Verbal De-escalation training to everyone. This is a free training however, you must register to attend.
- *Student Life (New Committee) Taylor* – There is a student program entitled "Ignite Howard County" along with a PowerPoint presentation. Taylor would like to get student ambassadors involved. Giovanna went to Washington, D.C. with female students from Reservoir H.S., Hammond H.S., and Hammond Middle School to speak to Congressmen and Senators about global human rights and education.

7. **STUDENT REPORT** – Taylor and Giovanna gave combined report during Student Life committee report.

8. **STAFF REPORT/UPDATES** – Stephanie read Executive Secretary staff report in Dr. Sands absence, reported case status of HBI's, OHR cases, Martin Luther King Holiday Commission updates, African American Pioneers of Howard County event planned, and showings of the documentary "The New Black."

9. **NEW BUSINESS** – No report.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES – HRC does not meet in August. MAHRA Training will be held in October. More details will follow. As soon as date is confirmed, Stephanie will forward to all Commissioners. Stephanie will speak to Dr. Sands about Genevieve and Ivette’s interest in volunteering to serve on the Maryland Civil Rights Coalition.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.