

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

March 21, 2019

### Commission Members Present:

Bob Ford  
Kui Zhao  
Scott Markow

### Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner  
Shiraz Ahmed  
Peter Hwang  
Bianca Chang  
Joan Hash  
Hector Garcia

### Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary  
Janssen Evelyn, Acting HRC Executive Secretary  
Melissa Goldmeier, HRC Legal Counsel

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

#### 2. PUBLIC FORUM –

#### 3. APPROVE MINUTES –

#### 4. CHAIR’S REPORT – Chair Ford shared information on the OHR Review Committee meeting on 2/28.

Commissioners Bob Ford, Bianca Chang and OHR Staff Stephanie Chapple attended the meeting, answered questions, and spoke at length to members of the committee. A public open forum was held on 3/7 at Long Reach High School. A second public input meeting was held at Wilde Lake High School on 3/11. Commissioner Hector Garcia shared testimony during this meeting.

On 3/17, Bob and Scott, along with OHR staff Acting Administrator Janssen Evelyn attended the Vigil at Dar Al Taqua Mosque following the tragic shootings in New Zealand.

Leslie Salgado-Tamayo was forwarded for consideration for appointment to the HRC. The County Council will vote on her appointment on 4/1.

#### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - 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/Shiraz – Hard copy report submitted by Scott. Scott highlighted Federal Update re. President Trump’s 2020 fiscal year budget request, which proposes to drastically cut federal housing benefits. Per Kui, Grace Law #2 passed in the Senate. Per Janssen, please view the legislation tracker on MAACO for up-to-date information.
- ❖ Legislation – Bob/Kui – Hard copy report submitted by Kui. Kui highlighted CR12-2019, referencing two new appointments to the Commission, which were introduced.
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – Bob met with Bianca and Hector following the Public Input meeting at Long Reach H.S., to discuss the HRC award nominees. Three candidates were sent to the full body for discussion and to vote. Winners will be determined during the conference call.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – No report.
- ❖ LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob’s written report. Per Bob, PFLAG will host its annual fundraiser, “Queens and Cocktails.” Information will be circulated to all members. Howard County’s Pride Event will be held in June. More information will be shared next month.
- ❖ Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – No report.
- ❖ HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – No report.
- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan – No report.
- ❖ Community Outreach Sub-Committee – (formed following CR-180 Study) – Peter, Hector – No report. Per Scott, Mary Campbell, OHR staff and Scott both met with leaders of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). The meeting was extremely productive. Both Scott and Mary shared detailed information about the services OHR/HRC offers to Howard County citizens. A follow up meeting will be held.

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#### 6. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

7. STAFF REPORT – Janssen submitted OHR staff report. Janssen and Scott will meet with leaders at the New Hope Seventh Day Adventist Church. Three OHR staff persons are participants of the county’s Courageous Conversations. Chair Bob spoke to leaders during PFLAG’s monthly meeting, in an effort to share more information about the services of Howard County’s civil rights enforcement agency, and to discuss ways we can partner with many community organizations, such as PFLAG. Stephanie will be meeting with Zainab Chaudry, Director, Maryland Outreach with the Council on American-Islamic Relations within the next few weeks. Stephanie has also been in communication with Ying Matties from the Chinese American Network for Diversity and Opportunity organization (CAN-DO) to discuss ways to partner with this organization. Additionally, OHR will reach out to those organizations who didn’t respond to the initial correspondence, to re-connect with those leaders/members as the office’s Outreach efforts has expanded. Additional outreach efforts include, but are not limited to, updating webpage, social media presence, attending community meetings, restructuring OHR office, etc. Stephanie and Kui will attend the Commission on Women’s Hall of Fame event on 3/28. Janssen is the 2019 Diversity Day Chair. Stephanie serves on the Education and Community Outreach committee and represents OHR.

7. CLOSED SESSION – N/A

8. NEW BUSINESS – Per Kui, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Members of the Asian and Indian communities will host program and events. Kui will share more information in the weeks ahead.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Conference call was held on 3/27 at 6:15 p.m. Members Kui, Peter, Bob, Hector and Scott called in. Quorum was confirmed.**

- Questions or comments regarding HRC Correspondence dated 3/1/19 and HRC Response drafted by HRC Legal Counsel (M. Goldmeier). HRC members discussed appeal 19-03-001, from Rp. HRC decided that Rp has no right to appeal. HRC denied request. – all approved
- HRC Award Nominations and Selections of Winners (Chair Bob and Commissioner Hector) – all approved nominations forwarded by Awards committee