

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

December 18, 2014

### Commission Members Present:

H. Taylor Walls  
Genevieve Walker-Lightfoot  
Sal Hussain  
Ivette Lopez  
Rev. Turner  
Tim Johnson  
Frank Eastham  
Opel T. Jones, I  
Ilene Kessler  
Bianca Chang  
Giovanna Guarnieri

### Commission Members Absent:

Catherine Hyde

### Staff:

Stephanie M. Chapple, Recording Secretary  
Mary Campbell, Acting OHR Administrator  
Barry Sanders, HRC Legal Counsel

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1. **PUBLIC FORUM – N/A**
2. **CALL TO ORDER**  
Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.
3. **APPROVE MINUTES**  
November meeting minutes were approved.
4. **Chair's Report –**
  - Taylor and Commissioners suggested inviting Dr. Gray to an upcoming HRC meeting to thank him for his years of service as OHR Administrator and HRC Executive Secretary. A date will be determined at the January meeting.
  - Taylor congratulated both Genevieve and Ivette on being selected as Chair and Vice Chair for 2015, and looks forward to the Commission moving forward in the new year ahead.
  - Taylor asked that members re-commit to serving as Human Rights Commissioners, and to please mark your calendars accordingly to meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.
5. **HRC CASES UPDATE – LEGAL COUNSEL – N/A**
6. **COMMITTEES/ REPORTS & NAMES OF NEW COMMITTEES FOR 2015 will be announced at the January Meeting**
  - *Finance and Fair Lending – Genevieve* – this committee will resume in 2015.
  - *Legislation – Ivette and Genevieve* – Ivette will continue to view the Maryland State website for any updates, however, possibly due to the election, there were no new legislations listed to date
  - *Education & Community Outreach – Frank, Rev. Turner* – Superintendent Foose is in receipt of HRC's letter regarding the Glenelg and River Hill high school incident, and will be responding formally. An informative group consisting of students, parents, staff, and Howard County NAACP President David Steele will work together on building bridges for open conversation when challenging and similar situations arise.
  - *Law Enforcement – Opel* - Tim will join Opel on this committee in 2015. Opel circulated news article announcing County Executive Kittleman's decision to name Gary Gardner as Chief of Police.
  - *HRC Awards Program – Genevieve* – Taylor thanked Gen and her committee for the hard work, dedication and effort that went into making this year's award program a success. Ivette and Bianca will chair this committee in 2015.
  - *Human Trafficking Task Force – Genevieve* – Final report is complete and was submitted to the County Council.
  - *LGBT Committee – Catherine* – No report.
  - *Housing – Ivette and Catherine* – Ilene will replace Catherine to serve on this committee for 2015.
7. **STUDENT REPORT** – Giovanna will work with Taylor to initiate the HRC Ambassador program. Giovanna will also work with other Howard County high school leaders to start a human rights program at each school. Taylor will work with Giovanna in putting a forum in place for a student committee. Taylor and Giovanna will name this new committee next month.
8. **STAFF REPORT/UPDATES** – Mary Campbell introduced herself to the members and will be attending the monthly meetings as Acting OHR Administrator until further notice. Human Rights Day in Annapolis will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. More information will follow in January. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will be held on **Sunday, January 18** at Howard Community College's Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center – Smith Theatre; the reception will

begin at 2 p.m. and the program will begin promptly at 3 p.m. The celebration is free to the public; however, attendees are asked to bring a **canned food item** to support Howard County's Food Bank.

9. **NEW BUSINESS** – HRC elections for 2015 were held. Genevieve was elected as Chair, and Ivette was elected as Vice Chair.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES** – Everyone have a safe and enjoyable holiday. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2015. Meetings will resume every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., C. Vernon Gray Room unless otherwise indicated.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair adjourned meeting at 8:55 p.m.