

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVED Minutes

May 16, 2020

Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Chair Ford called meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Ford (Chair), Scott Markow (Vice Chair), Lynda Earle (Vice Chair), Bianca Chang, Mabrooka Chaudhry, Joan Hash, Peter Hwang, Musa Jafri, Joshua Kaufmann, Leslie Salgado-Tamayo, and Kui Zhao.

Staff Present: Yolanda F. Sonnier (Executive Secretary)

Legal Counsel: Melissa Goldmeier

Meeting Attendees: Bette Hoover, Christopher Lidard, Johnathan DiPietro, Michael David, and Ying Matties

I. PUBLIC FORUM

Michael David, Ying Matties and Bette Hoover presented on behalf of the Howard County Coalition for Immigrant Justice.

- A. Michael David: Expressed concerns that abuse based on immigration status is violation of human rights, abuse is occurring in Howard County currently and wants to work together with the HRC to combat this by changing the current policy in place for ICE inmates in the Howard County Detention Center.
- B. Ying Matties: Spoke on behalf of the sub-coalition Chinese American Network for Diversity and Opportunity and expressed concerns that local government should not be involved with the ICE detainee policy in Howard County. Suggested several alternatives to detention centers for ICE detainees, in particular, by allowing some detainees to be released to their homes. Requested support in ending Howard County's contract with ICE.
- C. Bette Hoover: Expressed concerns with ICE detainees' health at Howard County Detention Center during this pandemic. Asked that HRC help by speaking to the Howard County Council members and requesting that detainees be released due to COVID-19.

The new student commission Jonathan DiPietro was introduced. His appointment as the new student commissioner is pending before the County Council.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Josh made a motion to approve the April 16, 2020 minutes. Joan 2nd the motion. All Commissioners in attendance voted in favor of accepting the minutes as distributed. **April 16, 2020 minutes were approved.**

III. CHAIR'S REPORT – BOB

Bob reported that the HRC joined onto a joint statement with AAPI teachers' Association and HCPSS that decried discrimination against the Asian community. Bob suggested that HRC consider issuing statement for our general community.

Bob reported that the new student commissioner member will be voted upon by council in June of 2020.

IV. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Executive Secretary Report was circulated.

Discussed LatinX and AAPI calls which stem out of the County Executive's office.

Discussed HBIs for this month in detail.

Discussed OHR's upcoming virtual programs.

V. STUDENT REPORT

Provided update on compilation of packets.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Nominating:** Peter reported that all interviews have been conducted and two candidates for commissioners and two students have been recommended.
- b. **Awards:** Yolanda reported that October 15, 2020 and October 22, 2020 are tentative dates for the awards ceremony and currently the County Executive is available both days. Bianca reported there are five individual nominations and three business nominations currently and that the nomination process will remain open through the OHR website until the end of summer.
- c. **Outreach:** Mabrooka reported that work is being done in conjunction with Asian American Educators of Howard County and joint statement was issued to address hate bias, and discrimination against Asian Americans. May 15, 2020 webinar occurred regarding Asian-American community. Video and transcript of webinar will be provided by Mabrooka. Rainbow Conference occurred virtually on May 15, 2020. Mabrooka requested that activities and invitations be sent to her so that she may add to the HRC Annual Report.
- d. **Civic Participation (Census/Voting):** Kui reported the census meeting is set for May 29, 2020 and therefore there is no written report yet this month.
- e. **Hate Crimes:** Josh reported that there is no written report this month. Josh reported that he has collected information for this month so that the committee can reach out later for follow up.
- f. **Legislation:** Scott submitted a written report which contains four months of legislation.
- g. **Immigration:** Joan reported that she submitted a written report this month. Joan also reported on several upcoming activities such as interviews with Prince George's County regarding adding immigration status

to their Code. Joan also reported they will contact a lawyer that deals directly with immigrants. Joan reported that Leslie is setting up a meeting with Howard County Coalition for Immigrant Justice.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob suggested issuing statement on behalf of the HRC in support of the Asian community against hate bias and discrimination because of COVID-19. Joan agrees and thinks it is a good idea. Josh is also in support of issuing a statement. Mabrooka also agrees it is a good idea. Mabrooka agreed to draft statement and Joan agreed to provide input and all other members will provide additions and edits.

Kui reported she has been helping the Chinese American Parent Association. Kui reported that Trent Hall of the Office of Human Rights will hold an inspirational speech for CAPA. Kui also reported that Yolanda will join the elected officials of state and local governments for a video talk in celebration of the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month celebration.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made to go into Closed session. All Commissioners voted in favor of the closed session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm