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## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

### *Minutes*

June 15, 2017

#### Commission Members Present:

Bianca Chang  
Joan Hash  
Peter Hwang  
Kui Zhao  
Bob Ford  
Shivani Aghera  
Hector Garcia, Jr.  
Misbah Farooqi

#### Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner  
Shiraz Ahmed  
Opel T. Jones, I

#### Staff:

Dr. Barbara J. Sands, HRC Executive Secretary  
Stephanie Chapple, HRC Recording Secretary  
Melissa Goldmeier, HRC Legal Counsel

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – Steve Charing, citizen; Mary Campbell, OHR Compliance Officer. Ms. Campbell and HRC Legal Counsel conducted training for new and current members. Training topics included: roles and responsibilities of members, expectations, attendance, and serving as panelists. As all panels are now complete, members were reminded that, if you are unable to attend the pre-hearing/public hearing, it is the responsibility of the commissioner to contact another member to fill in for them, in their absence.

#### 3. HRC CASES UPDATE – LEGAL COUNSEL – N/A

#### 4. APPROVE MINUTES

Amendment to May meeting – Reverend Turner asked producers of Play “Disgraced” to inform Commissioners’ of their expectations from HRC and submit an itemized list of needs from HRC.

#### 5. CHAIR’S REPORT –

- See written report submitted. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, Bianca chaired the meeting.
- Bereavement News – HRC is saddened by the loss of Commissioner Ilene Kessler. Cards and expressions of sympathy can be mailed to her husband Jeff at their home. Reverend Turner will send card on behalf of HRC.
- Vacant slots for panel members and panel chairs were filled.
- CR-180 - Bianca will draft letter of extension and forward to Reverend Turner for approval tonight. Once approved by Chair Turner, Stephanie will send document to Councilman Ball’s office. In light of Ilene’s passing, Joan and Hector offered to assist Peter and Reverend Turner with the report (study) of Howard County government.
- HRC Student Commissioner – Deadline for application submissions is tomorrow. Nominating committee will review all applicants, interview candidates, submit their candidate(s) name to the County Executive for consideration. Motion was made to give full authority and responsibility to Nominating Committee, make decisions, and share outcome on behalf of HRC. All approved.
- Correspondence from Councilman Ball re. Section 12.208-3E and Title VII – Opel and Hector are researching Prince Georges County, Baltimore County, and Montgomery County. Hector commented “the only difference/discrepancy that is noted thus far, is that Howard County uses the term “exhaust,” – i.e. employees should exhaust all options prior to going to OHR.” Joan sent Opel note and expressed interest during May meeting that she would like to join this committee. Peter made suggestion to the committee “we want to be mindful of what the concern was. One of the concerns, was that making or effectuating the change that Dr. Ball proposed, would create dual tracks that could end up with inconsistent results. The dual tracks were administrative remedies and going through OHR.” Hector indicated to Joan that the committee could use more assistance. Per Bianca, Joan will be included in this matter to research Anne Arundel County.
- Co-Sponsorship RE. Play “Disgraced” – Mr. Myers and his team will propose M.O.U. Chair Turner will share more information at July meeting.

#### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS -

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- Finance & Fair Lending with Housing – *(Vacant)* – Dr. Sands will give more feedback as OHR receives it.
- Legislation – *Bob/Kui* – No report
- Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – *Reverend Turner, Opel* – No report.
- HRC Awards Committee – *Bianca, Opel, Hector* – Bianca will start early planning for 2018 award program. Dr. Sands expressed her appreciation for a job well done at the April award program...“everything from the music, food, program, etc.” Bianca and Dr. Sands both thanked Stephanie for her work with the program. Hector volunteered to join this committee.
- Human Trafficking Committee – **Peter, Shiraz and Joan** – Joan and Peter met with Chief Gardner, Mjr. Lockman and Cpt. Koon. Requested to meet quarterly to receive updates on this issue. Committee sent letter on behalf of HRC to support certain legislation that would allow HCPD to inspect massage parlors without a warrant with the hope of curtailing illicit/illegal massage parlors. HRC submitted letter to the Council, legislation was passed. This took effect in June. Committee looking to meet with Health Dept officials. Per Dr. Sands, task force is complete, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinating Committee will fall under Community and Citizen Services Agency. Train the trainer program will re-start.
- LGBTQ Committee – *Opel, Bob* – *No report*. Bob volunteered to join this committee. Dr. Sands attended celebration fundraiser at Oakland Manor in May.
- Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – *Bianca* – Free hot lunches for students 18 and under at various schools from 11- 2:30 p.m. No registration required. June 1<sup>st</sup> in state of Md, you don't need required perx to get to address the opioid epidemic issues.
- HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Rev. Turner – members will get updates from D. Lee. Per DR. Sands, HRC does not have funding for Communications Specialist.
- Nominating Committee – Shiraz, Peter, Joan, Shivani – See Chair's report above.
- Student Report – No report.

7. STAFF REPORT – See written report submitted. OHR working with various agencies and participating in community events i.e. African American Cultural Center, African American Roundtable, Delta's, AKA's, Race Unity Day, The Longest Table

8. NEW BUSINESS – N/A

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- Hector thanked HRC for supporting FIRN event. FIRN will host Naturalization Ceremony on 7/8 at 9 a.m. 30-40 individuals will be sworn in as U.S. citizens.
- Stephanie will share photos of Ilene and the County Executive taken during the Veteran's Fair program this past spring. Ilene, Bob, Kui and Joan volunteered at this event.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

*\*There was a conversation regarding the Asian Pacific Islander event that was held in May. The May minutes and the audio recording of the meeting reflected the name as being the Asian Pacific Islander Celebration announced by Bianca. During the June meeting, it was suggested that the minutes be corrected to Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, however the May minutes from the recording was correct.*