Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Chair Scott Markow called meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

Commissioners Present: Scott Markow, (Chair), Bianca Chang, Mabrooka Chaudhry, Kui Zhao, Gabriel Terrasa (Corresponding Secretary) Joan Hash, Jonah Hornum (Vice Chair), Bob Ford, Lynda Earle, Tiffany Releford, Peter Hwang, Sahara Ukaegbu, (Student commissioner)

Absent: Commissioner Lynda Earle

Staff Present: Fatina Jackson; Todd Givens

Legal Counsel: Melissa Goldmeier

I. PUBLIC FORUM
Dia Drake Sprague a Civil Rights Officer with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights works in the education and outreach department. Ms. Drake Sprague provides educational training for the public and conducts outreach events and attends many HRC meetings in various counties to see how the Maryland Commission can assist and if there are any issues that the Commission needs to be aware of.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES
Scott asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes or if anyone had any other changes to the January minutes. Joan moved to approve the January minutes, seconded by Tiffany, motion passes and approved without opposition.

III. PRESENTATION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
Presenter, Ms. Joan Bryan, is a member of the Baltimore County Human Relations Commission, The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, a member of P-Flag, and The Trevor Project. Ms. Bryan spoke about the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project stating they work to arrive at truth and reconciliation. They operate under the aegis of Brian Stevenson’s equal justice initiative. There have been more than 40 murder lynching’s in the state, and more than 400 nationally. Their goal is to advocate for public acknowledgement of those deaths, and to bring some solace to any descendants they can find. As part of the community outreach efforts, many book discussions are presented and offered such as the anti-racism book discussion. Last year during Black History month, a discussion was held regarding Black History month itself and debating whether it needs to exist or whether it need to take some other form. Ms. Bryan mentioned several upcoming book discussions including “The Secret Lives of Church Ladies”. At the Human Relations Commission they are talking a lot about hate crimes as there is a rise. Ms. Bryan mentioned upcoming legislation HB037. This bill will make it a less
cumbersome process for the parents of Trans or LGBTQ kids to change the sex
designation, which will ease the process and almost any other documentation a person
has to obtain. The hearing is scheduled for February 23rd. Ms. Bryan also spoke about
Carter G. Woodson, creator of what was then Nigro history week, which is now Black
History Month. Ms. Bryan provided brief history of Carter G. Woodson, and the reason
he launched Nigro history week in 1926.

Scott asked about the lynching’s in Baltimore, and what time period Ms. Bryan were
referring too. Ms. Bryan stated the most recent was not in Maryland but in the United
States in 1940. Joan asked if Ms. Bryan could provide a brief reflection on some of the
discussion regarding black history month. Ms. Bryan stated, the discussion evolved into
how it can be publicized more and where. Scott mentioned it would be great for us to
have more collaboration with the other human relations and human rights commissions
especially in the immediate geographic area to learn best practices from one another and
to let each other know what we're working on.

IV. **CHAIR’S REPORT**
CB2-2022 passed county council and signed by County Executive on February 9th. The
law will take effect on April 11th.
CB10-2022 passed however it has been removed from the Human Rights Code. It's no
longer under our jurisdiction but added as a new title under Health and Social Services.
Scott mentioned the updated hearing panelists and the cases that are before HRC.
Scott attended two online events, a book discussion at HoCo Library and a Synagogue
panel discussion called “Race and the law”.
There is a new law in Maryland regarding the “No Knock Warrant”. The law requires an
approval not only from the judge but also from the States Attorney’s office. There was
also a law that passed called Anton’s law, which allows anyone in the public to access a
police officer’s service records.
Scott also asked if each commissioner could find or locate a one speaker each to attend
one of the HRC monthly meetings.

V. **STUDENT’S REPORT**
Sahara spoke regarding the status of contacting the SRO’s and plan on drafting a plan B in
case the meeting with officers does happen. Plan B would be addressing the issues,
bringing in student voices and getting feedback from the student groups. Sahara would
also be drafting out questions for those student groups that would pertain specifically to
the rights of the students in schools as opposed to just the information. Focusing on the
student’s well-being and making sure their rights are being considered when interactions
occur between students and SRO’s.

VI. **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT**
Todd filled in on behalf of Yolanda. Todd provided office updates, regarding the
promotions of two OHRE employees. OHRE is hoping to finish finalizing the Annual
report. The office is working on informational PSA’s and Todd will speak with Yolanda
about adding the Citizenship and Immigration status as a protected class in one of the
PSA’s. Todd mentioned the office last year received a grant for Fair Housing Testing.
Testing was done in the local area and found that several housing complexes may appear to have been engaged in some discriminatory housing practices and recommended that HRC file a complaint with OHRE to be investigated further. The Equal Rights Center would like to know what HRC may need to help start the process. Yolanda may be able to share the report at the next HRC meeting. Todd provided additional office updates including the upcoming book discussions and the lunch and learn scheduled for February 24th. Scott asked about the Housing Testing and if the report could be received before the next HRC meeting to be evaluated.

VII. WORKGROUPS

a. LA ALIANZA LATINA:
Gab stated the workgroup had their last scheduled meeting on February 8th. Unless extended there will be no workgroup meeting after February as it terminates on March 15th. The report was finalized and in process of being submitted to the Executive’s Office. Gab stated the workgroup made a recommendation for a permanent work group but it’s up to the Executive if it’s considered.

b. AAPI:
Mabrooka has no updates for the AAPI workgroup. Individual committee reports were submitted, and recommendation given but currently awaiting a response.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Outreach:
Mabrooka is still working on finalizing the annual report. Kui, assisted the AARP Maryland to connect with the Howard County Chinese School in Chinese American Parent Association, AARP’s goals for accelerating multicultural outreach. They launched a new Asian American Pacific Islander steering committee to ensure the diversity equity and inclusion of Maryland’s Asian American population is reflected in AARP Maryland’s outreach planning and communication.

b. Awards Committee:
The committee met on January 25th. The committed discussed having the Awards Ceremony October 18th. Gab made requested to make motion to approve the date of October 18th at 7:00p.m., seconded by Jonah. The motion was abstained by Bob. Bob asked if there were any religious holidays on the 18th. Calendars were checked and verified no religious holidays; motion passed to approve the ceremony for October 18th. Gab made a motion to have the ceremony at Owen Brown Interfaith Center, seconded by Kui. Scott asked about the budget for the ceremony, Gab stated the budget has been discussed by Claudia and Yolanda. Motion passed and approved without opposition. Gab stated the committee need to review the nomination forms and will come to the commission with a proposed nomination form by April.

c. Nominating Committee:
Peter stated he believes Yolanda has reached out and currently waiting to hear back from the Executive’s Office as to the status of when a solicitation will go out and the deadline. Once the deadline is set, and the applications come in then interviews will be scheduled.
Peter also mentioned Gab’s re-appointment, Scott asked if Gab wanted to be reappointed, Gab stated he already express his interest to Yolanda. Peter moved to make the recommendation for the re-appointment of Gab, seconded by Joan. Motion passed. Scott asked if Mabrooka’s position have been advertised, Peter stated he has not heard back from Yolanda.

d. Legislative Committee:
Scott sent out a written report as there's been a lot of legislation proposed at the state level. There was an additional bill that was not on the report regarding the correction of Birth Certificates but will be add for next month. Bill CB2 and CB10 passed in the County Counsel. CB83-2021 passed but with several amendments removing both the Chief of Police, and the County Sheriff from the Police Accountability Board, it changed the composition to 7 citizen members. 5 of whom would be district base. It also added a requirement that all members of the police accountability board undergo criminal background checks before they're appointed.
Bill HB0928 was proposed to add immigration and citizenship status to the state anti-discrimination code for housing only.
There is also the Prison Camera Reform Act pending in the house. Body worn cameras will be implemented in Howard County starting in April or May.

IX. ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Social and Economic Justice:
The committee met on February 8th. Tiffany stated the focus of the committee is to be centered on justice in the terms of distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges within our society, and what could be done to start accomplishing those goals. The committee discussed implementing trainings for the commissioners in terms of research and policy that's currently before the Howard County Council and attending meetings and giving testimony, and the with different election years and things that are coming up both on a federal state and local level researching the voting rights laws across the country and initiating righting campaigns to address voting rights matters as things often trickle down to the state and local level. The committee also discussed hosting panels for social and economic justice speaker’s and interactive seminars regarding those issues.

b. Hate Crimes:
Bob stated he has been representing the HRC on Cove. Bob will ask Yolanda to send out to the committee the HBI reports.

c. Public Education:
The committee met on February 7th and discussed HRC partnering with OHRE and creating and posting videos on “Know Your Rights” which will be available to the public explaining how to file a charge, the appeal process and the hearing process. The committee is working on a rough draft of the script and hope to have that available soon.

X. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
No new business or announcements, however Lynda mentioned the mandates in other
counties to show proof of vaccination to go into covered establishments.

XI. **ADJOURN**
Scott mentioned having a motion to adjourn. Lynda made a motion to adjourn. Joan seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

Session ended at 8:29 pm.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2022 at 7pm