HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HYBRID MEETING  
July 21, 2022 Minutes

Hybrid in Person and Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Physically Present: Gab Terrasa, Bob Ford, Joan Hash, Bianca Chang, Lynda Earle, Peter Hwang, and Nina Basu

Absent: Scott Markow, Jonah Hornum, Kui Zhao, and Tiffany Releford

Staff Present: Yolanda Sonnier and Kathy Morales

Legal Counsel: Melissa Goldmeier

I. CALL TO ORDER

Gab Terrasa chaired on behalf of Scott and called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

II. PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public was present.

III. GUEST SPEAKER: The Honorable Lily Qi, State Delegate in District 15

Delegate Qi represents District 15 in Montgomery County, Maryland. Lynda Earle introduced Delegate Qi. She is serving her first term in the Economic Matters Committee. Delegate Qi discussed a Bill that she introduced and was passed in 2021. HB0257 requires the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights to include a review of certain data and recommendations, for policy changes to address discriminatory trends noted in the data in its annual report; requiring certain county offices of civil rights, or other appropriate agencies, to report certain information relating to complaints of employment discrimination to the Commission. The reporting requirement is applicable only in certain counties (six counties) in Maryland. Delegate Qi mentioned one of the hardships is that there aren’t enough resources on how to make sure others feel welcomed and connected. Unfortunately, after the Bill passed, The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights mentioned they haven’t received data. In addition, the numbers are not accurate and there is currently no data sharing. She mentioned many layers that we need to break out of and how to better improve the system put in place for receiving accurate data.

IV. APPROVAL OF June 16, 2022 MINUTES

Bob moved to approve June Minutes, Bianca seconds. Motion passed. Minutes will now become available online.
V. CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair’s report was presented by Gab. Scott submitted testimony in support of CB48-2022 and CB49-2022. Reminder that there is no regular meeting in August. Lynda moved to approve Scott’s report, seconded by Joan. Report received.

VI. STUDENT’S REPORT

There was no student report this month.

VII. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT

Yolanda started her report by informing us that the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights contacted her office last month regarding the reporting (HB0257). She is waiting on guidance from the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights because there needs to be further clarification on how to report and the timeline. The Bill became effective in October 2021. What isn’t clear is when to begin, whether it’s from 2022 or going back to 2021 for data. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights is doing a Biennial Civil Rights and Fair Housing Gala on Saturday, August 20th from 6 P.M. to 10 P.M. at Maryland Live. The theme is “Her Story” and will honor six women leaders in Maryland. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Mary Frances Berry. If anyone is interested in attending, let us know. Ticket sales end on August 15th. There are a couple updates in the Office of Human Rights and Equity. Two new staffers started in July. Camila Silva, Office Manager started on Tuesday, July 5th and Alex Na, Equity Coordinator, started on Monday, July 18th. The Office of Human Rights and Equity’s Annual Report is posted and can be found on the website. The Office of Human Rights and Equity is working with the County Executive’s Office to host a Black Business Celebration for Black Business Month on Saturday, August 13th from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. at Wild Lake High School. Yolanda asked the Commissioners if anyone is interested in volunteering at the Long Reach Film Festival on Saturday, July 30th or coming out to National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2nd, the Office of Human Rights and Equity will be there! An email will get sent out on volunteer opportunities for the Commissioners. During the events discussion, Nina mentioned that Pride will take place on Sunday, October 9th, details to come, and a Hispanic festival will be coming in 2023. For the month of August, Reading Human Rights will take place on Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:30P.M. at the East Columbia Branch Library. The book discussion will be on The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead. If you are interested in co-facilitating, please let her know. In other news, the County Council will vote on CB-48 and C49 on Monday, August 1st. If it passes, the County Executive will introduce Resolutions, then it will be pre-filed in September. The LGBTQIA+ and La Alianza Latina Commission won’t be operational until November or December. In addition, the AAPI Workgroup will be pre-filed in September in order to become a commission. Currently, there is no information on appointments, but there is a spot for a HRC
commissioner to sit on those new commissions. Nina inquired on the relationship between HRC and these other commissions, Yolanda clarified by stating that a HRC commissioner could have a designated seat with the new commissions. These commissions will meet quarterly. Peter motioned to accept report, seconded by Joan. Report received.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING:

• Outreach:
Jonah and Kui were out. Nothing to report.

• Awards Committee:
Gab mentioned that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 25th. Timeline is on track for the Awards Committee. So far, they’ve received seven nominations and would like to get more. Nomination link is up on the website. Lynda motioned to accept report, seconded by Bianca. Report received.

• Nominating Committee:
Peter provided an update that all nine student applicants were interviewed for the Student Commissioner vacancy. The deadline to report and send the top three recommendations to the County Executive’s office is next week. Lynda made a motion, which was seconded by Nina that the nominating committee should be permitted to make the decision of which applicants are sent to the County Executive. Lynda motioned to accept report, seconded by Nina. Report received.

• Legislative Committee:
Scott emailed his report in advance. Per his email to the commission, the only new items of note are CB48-2022 (creation of LGBTQIA+ Commission) and CB49-2022 (creation of La Alianza Commission). The HRC has submitted written testimony in support of both of these bills. Peter motioned to accept report, seconded by Lynda. Report received.

IX. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Social & Economic Justice:
Tiffany emailed her report in advance. “The committee met on Friday, July 15th. Currently, the committee has a virtual event planned for October 12th. The committee discussed hosting another event on Bystander Intervention & Cultural Awareness training. OHRE has done this training in the past, the
last one being in September 2021. OHRE offers this training on a quarterly basis. The committee discussed offering this training in January 2023 to align with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. OHRE confirmed that it could do a training the week of the holiday and asked if Human Rights Commissioners would be willing to facilitate the training. The committee will continue to discuss hosting this event.” Yolanda asked for clarification for the training. Would the sub-committee like to attend the training done by the Outreach Unit in the Office of Human Rights and Equity or facilitate the training in a “train the trainer” capacity? Follow up is needed. Lynda motioned to accept report, seconded by Joan. Report received.

- **Hate Bias: (Bob, Bianca, Lynda & Peter)**
  Bob stated that they did not meet this month but will meet in September. They will review the two HBI’s that Yolanda mentioned were received for the month of June and July. Lynda motioned to accept report, seconded by Joan. Report received.

- **Education:**
  Gab stated that they will have a meeting on Wednesday. Nothing to report.

X. **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Rise to the Challenge Award. Nomination was extended, deadline was on Friday, July 22nd at 11:59P.M. Melissa announced she will be leaving us and will be working in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, congrats! Although there is no monthly meeting in August, we will participate in an Unconscious Bias training on Thursday, August 25 at 7P.M. in person.

XI. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**
Meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm. Motioned by Peter, Seconded by all.