Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Chair Ford called meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

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

**Staff Present:** Yolanda F. Sonnier (Executive Secretary)

**Legal Counsel:** Melissa Goldmeier

**Meeting Attendees:** N/A

I. **PUBLIC FORUM**
   No Public present

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kui made a motion to approve the June 18, 2020 minutes. Joan 2nd the motion. All Commissioners in attendance voted in favor of accepting the minutes as distributed. **June 18, 2020 minutes were approved.**

III. **CHAIR’S REPORT – BOB**

   - Bob welcomed the new members Gabriel Terrasa (commissioner) and Jonathon Di Pietro (student). Each member gave a brief introduction about themselves.
   - Bob mentioned that Kui posted two letters on her Facebook page that were published in the Howard County Times. He asked Kui if she received lots of likes or comments.

IV. **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

Yolanda mentioned instead of circulating the June report it will be shared on the screen. Yolanda shared the Office of Human Rights (OHR) case statistics which included: total cases, cases investigated, pending closures, new cases, inquiries and closed cases. Also included and discussed were the 10 Hate Bias Incident reported which included: 6 Anti-Black, 2 Anti-Jewish, 1 Anti-Asian and 1 General Multi-Racial. Yolanda also mentioned that LGBTQ Group will meet next Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 6pm-8pm and the meeting are open to the public. Lastly, Yolanda addressed the monthly HRC meetings, with the County slowly allowing office staff to return. Although we aren’t open to the public, but when we do how would you like to conduct your meetings? The commission agreed to keep the meeting virtual for September and revisit future meetings later. The office is planning future dialogue with different races virtually or either in person, to create a space for the community to discuss what’s going on in the World.
V. STUDENT REPORT
Jonathon mentioned he met with a student member of the board to discuss a few issues. The biggest issue discussed was the process on how students report HBI’s in the school system. Jon asked what is HRC role with advocating with the youth on issues. Jonathon also mentioned it would be helpful if the HRC members could engage and educate the youth. He asked, if the commissioners received the petition submitted to the Howard County public school system regarding racism. Lastly, he noted that the HRC roles and who we are as a commission need to be defined clearer on the website and social media.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
a. Nominating: No report.

b. Awards: Bianca mentioned we have 12 nominations: 3 business 9 individual nominations. The award nomination is open through the summer. The nominations will be submitted in the September’s meeting for final approval. The actual awards ceremony will tentatively be held in October. The commissioners discussed if an in-person versus virtual ceremony or holding off until 2021. The commissioners agreed that the ceremony will be held virtually on October 15, 2020. Although there was discussion of possible hosting on another day from the monthly meeting as the commission may need the entire meeting to conduct business.

c. Outreach: Mabrooka mentioned that the report was sent by email. Mabrooka went over the details that was included in her report and stated that the complete packet sent from Safa Hira (County Executive's Office) will be emailed to all commissioners. Leslie requested that all commissioners send community organization contacts to her for outreach purposes.

d. Civic Participation (Census/Voting): Kui mentioned that she resumed conversations with the County Government’s Census coordinator and still waited for a response about placing the Chinese census signs in multiple County park properties. Kui also addressed that since OHR has initiated dialogues with communities about racial issues, if HRC’s Outreach Committee and OHR could collaborate on this effort, it would be very helpful. Additionally, Kui volunteered to provide Leslie with contacts of several Asian community organizations in the County for HRC's Outreach Committee where she is a member.

e. Hate Crimes: Lynda mentioned the flyer that she emailed last month addressing races and insensitive overtones posted in the Centennial area. The police have since removed all the literature that was posted. There have been multiple areas that also had the same issue with this group. It seems that the white supremacy groups are using COVID-19 to push and support their agenda. They are targeting Black, Asian and Jewish communities, issues are being investigator. Lynda also mentioned that there is an Asian and Multicultural police liaison in the police department. Lastly, Lynda stated there is a County Councilmember in Montgomery County proposing legislation to make racism a public health emergency.

f. Legislation: Written report was provided. Scott mentioned that the County Council passed a resolution to amend the Charter to prohibit personnel action discrimination in the County protection system. The federal level there were several bills introduced in reference to the killing of George Floyd. The House provided 100 billion in housing for rental assistance for people that have been affective by COVID-19.

g. Immigration: Joan mentioned that the committee has concluded all their interviews except for the Immigration Coalition that Leslie will be scheduling. Report will be provided to the commission in September 2020.
VII. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mabrooka asked if the new commissioners wanted to join a committee. Gab stated he would like to volunteer for the Awards and Hate Crime committee. Jon stated he’s interested in Legislation and Outreach and would like to see the work that was done on Hate Crimes before deciding to join. Kui stated she could send Jon her census/civic committee reports before consideration.

Yolanda mentioned to Bob if the commissioners can discuss appeal amend deadline in close session. Bob stated that since we gave extension to counsel in the past, the Complainant should have the same rights.

Lynda mentioned that the NAACP are looking to get together with community groups.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Josh to go into Closed session and 2nd by Joan. All Commissioners voted in favor of the closed session

IX. ADJOURNMENT

• Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Peter and 2nd by Lynda. All Commissioner voted in favor meeting adjourned
• Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 pm