

Montgomery County Government
Office of Human Rights
21 Maryland Ave.
Suite 330
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Meeting Minutes
of the
Human Rights Commission
Of 2012

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**Human Rights Commission
Montgomery County Office of Human Rights
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, Maryland 20850**

HRC Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 23, 2012.

Meeting Place: 21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Commissioners Attended: Russell Campbell (Chair) William England (vice chair), Barron Oakcrum, Betsy Jett, Jeremiah Floyd, Stacey Ormsby, Selena Singleton, Tina Patterson, Terry Vann, Ruth Martin, Matthew Murguia and Stephanie Mason;

Commissioner Excused: None

Commissioners Absent: Dr. Suresh Gupta, Sajjad Durrani and Doug Ryan.

Staff attended: Director James Stowe and Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager.

1. Call to order:

- **Meeting:** Chairman Russell Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- **Agenda:** Committee approved meeting Agenda as amended; adding Meeting Frequency to New Business.
- **Minutes:** Commission approved minutes of March 23, 2012 meeting with following amendments.
 - I) Commissioners Campbell, Vann, Floyd and Murguia attended at the Sister City town hall meeting”; Commission Oakcrum did not attend (amend the minutes);
 - II) “Immigration Public Forum: Commissioner Ormsby did accept the role of Chair for the Immigration Public Forum Committee.
 - III) Commission also approved February 27th, 2012 minutes.

2. Chairman’s Report: Russell Campbell:

No report to make as Chairman.

3. Director’s Report: James L. Stowe:

- **Civil Rights Tour:** 44 persons from diverse group have participated the tour. It was a great group team consisting of (13) seniors and (11) middle aged citizens, 19 College to high school to element school students and people from various ethnic and racial backgrounds participated in this tour. Although it was a challenge to complete this program due to insufficient staff support and financial difficulties. The Office of Human Rights was helped by Mr. Richard Bingham, a staff of Community Engagement Cluster who volunteered to participate. This tour covered 6 states and 2200 miles.
- **FY 2013 Budget:** Office of Human Rights has sent a final budget proposal to the County Executive office very recently. Although this proposal has 2% cut from last years’ budget, but it will not effect in to staff force other than cuts in operating cost. A County Council Committee hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 25 at the Council Hearing Room on Budget 2013 issue. Council Committee on Health and Human Services will conduct this hearing and Council

Member George Leventhal is the chair. The Office of Human Right is under this committee, the committee will not hear public concerns about the department's 2013 budget issues. Director Stowe has informed the Commission this public meeting and they were welcome to come.

- **OHR Staff Update:** No changes in the staff force other than getting one volunteer in addition to the contract person who is working as Knowledge Transfer. Mr. Michael Dennis, a former Director of this department is working as a contract employee now.

CRB/Compliance Report: Case Review Update: Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager Her office has received a volunteer to do clerical works and staff supports jobs. Ms. Gloria, a 50 plus years old individual has joined the OHR to acclimate her skills in office automation and clerical jobs. She has joined as a volunteer and is being paid from a federal funded program. This federal program is designed to retrain over 50 years of old people to go back to the job market. Ms. Gloria is helping her (Ms. Garcia) as a support staff in the case review matters.

Ms. Beverly Marshall, an Office Services Coordinator of her section has returned to the office after her accident injury. She resumed her working on case mediation docking and mediators' training.

Case Review: Board Training: Commissioner Stephanie Mason has received training on review cases tonight.

Handed off 1 case tonight to CRB Panel

4. Committee Reports:

COHV: Director James Stowe:

- COHV is currently busy in drafting and finalizing a report to the CERB which is due by May 6, 2012. This committee is also working on developing a public forum discussion program like Bullying Symposium. COHV is unable to send any representative to the HRC due to shortage of members. Currently, COHV has 8 members out of 15 positions. Ms. Stephanie Lee is volunteering as an Acting Chair of the COHV. Her committee is actively looking candidates for the COHV member positions.
- At the call of Chairman Russell, Mr. Matthew Murguia has agreed to act as HRC Liaison to the COHV.

Community Action Board: William England

- He mentioned and distributed a press release of Coalition for the Advance Financial Education to the members. This organization will have a free breakfast workshop on financial literacy. Event information was provided .
- Manna Food/Ride On Bus Food Drive Event...information was provided.
- Montgomery County Head Start 2012 Budget was presented as information

Commission on People with Disability: Betsy Jett.

- No report to make.

Committee on Fair Housing: Dr. Jeremiah Floyd.

- Meeting was held but due to a lack of a quorum no official action was taken

Case Review Board: Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager

- 20 cases are ready and pending for case review.
- 1 (one) case file will be sent to the Review Panel of Commissioner Oakcrum, Martin and Vann for case review tonight.
- Commissioner Ms. Stephanie Mason has received training tonight. Commissioner Matthew Murguia will be scheduled to get training very soon.
- Additional cases will be assigned; all cases in this status do not have to come before the CRB.

5. Old Business:

Forum on Immigration: Stacy Ormsby

- The Committee has not yet met but will be meeting and reporting back to the Commission.

Regional Commission Meeting: Selena Singleton

- Commissioner Singleton met with key staff at the Silver Spring Civic Building and established that the month of June would be a good time to meet. The meeting will be held June 25, 2012 at the time of the regular meeting of the Commission. This will help commission to reach out the citizens and listen their concerns on human rights issue, particularly, concerns on immigration issues. Commissioner Singleton shared more about the committees' discussion on the format of the meeting. The Commission then had a full discussion on the topic of meeting format for this special session.
- The Chair asked the Committee to take in consideration the comments, thoughts and ideas from the Commission discussion and bring back a plan and recommendation for moving forward on the special June meeting.

5. New Business: Meeting Frequency: Chairman Russell

- The Chair raised the issue on the number of meeting the Commission should have each year. The Commission is required to meet at least 9 times per year. The Chair open the floor for input and discussion on the wishes of the Commission.

6. Questions and Issues;

- Chair raised the question about the I-Pad that had been approved by the Commission. The Director shared that the County was implemented a pilot program to used I-Pads throughout County and suggested that it made sense then to use the pilot for the Commission use and save the approved funds. Loretta and the Director were briefed about the program and were to have given OHR an I-Pad for the office. The Director committed to update the Commission at the next meeting.
- The Chair raised the issue of photographs for the Commission to be mounted in the conference room. The Director shared that photographs had been taken but had been misplaced but the Director Committed to update the Commission at the next meeting.
- The Chair raised the issue of whether every member had identification badges. Staff will help facilitate this for those who may not have badges.
- The Chair reviewed announcements upcoming events and asked for Commissioner involvement and support. The Director also encouraged participation in all the events as well.

- Commissioner Floyd raised the question of term limitation and asked for clarification on reappointment. The Director will provide the Commission with the update membership roster with current terms.

7. **Meeting adjourned** at approximately 8:59 PM
8. **Next meeting:** May 14, 2012 at 7:00pm.
9. **Meeting Minutes:** minutes was electronically recorded.