

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**

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**Draft HRC Meeting Minutes:** Monday, August 27, 2012.

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

**Commissioners Attended:** Russell Campbell (chair), Barron Oakcrom, Doug Ryan, Selena Singleton, Ruth Martin and Stephanie Mason Betsy Jett, Dr. Jeremiah Floyd, Dr. Suresh Gupta, Dr. Sajjad Durrani and Matthew Murguia;

**Commissioners Absent:** Judge William England and Stacey Ormsby,

**Staff attended:** Director James Stowe, Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager and Anis Ahmed, Staff Liaison;

**1. Call to order:**

- **Meeting:** Chairman Russell Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- **Agenda:** Committee approved meeting Agenda;
- **Minutes:** Commission approved minutes of May 14, 2012 meeting with minor amendments.

**2. Chairman's Report: Russell Campbell:**

- Chairman attended two important Ramadan Celebrations, Muslim Community Center in Silver Spring and at the EOB building organized by Montgomery County Muslim Council. Both events were well attended and were very spectacular.
- Several State and county elected officials, HRC Commissioner Sajjad Durrani, OHR Director James Stowe and Staff Liaison Anis Ahmed also attended at the MCC event.
- County Executive made nice comments in both events and Council Member George Leventhal made comment at the MCC event.
- Chairman had the privileges to speak on behalf of the Commission at both the events.
- Chairman Russell Campbell and Director James Stowe have attended the 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebration at the Martin Cross Road Hall, Maryland;

**3. Director's Report: James L. Stowe:**

- OHR, HRC and COHV condemned the heinous killing of innocent people at a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin, and showed supports to the Montgomery County Sikh communities;
- COHV in collaboration with Sikh Council held a candle light vigilance at the North Potomac Sikh Temple on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012; Also, COHV's Acting Chair Ms. Lorraine Lee sent letters to the Sikh community leaders;
- An US Department of Justice representative Mr. Steven Rosenbaum attended the Inter-Agency Fair Housing Group Committee's (IAFGC) monthly meeting on August 16, 2012 and updated about the Well Fargo's settlement to the committee members. Ms. Terri Jones, County Attorney, Mont. Co. Office of County Attorney was also present at the meeting. The IAFGC decided to explore whether Montgomery County residents are affected by the unfair practices of Wells Fargo and ask money from the settlement.;

- NRSC's regional meeting will be held in Alexandria in February or March 2013. Next national conference will held on the basis of the success of the regional conference;
- He introduced Ms. Jackie Simmons, a member of the IAFGC to the commissioners who was present at the meeting;
- He reconfirmed that OHR has reserved Silver Spring Civic Center facility for November 13, 2012 for hosting the Public Forum on Immigration;
- COHV have completed interviewing 6 (six) candidates and has sent it's recommendation to the County Executive for appointment.
- Montgomery County Council will have a hearing on Bill 19-12– Displaced Services Workers on ...

**4. Committee Updates: Immigration Forum: Selena Singleton:**

- Committee on Immigration Forum had 3 – 4 meetings since the Commission's monthly meeting was held; Committee discussed on the following issues:
  - Place, Date and Time of the forum discussion;
  - Issues: Housing, Law Enforcement/Racial Profiling, Dream Acts and Domestic Violence;
    - Council Member Nancy Navarro and President, CASA Maryland have confirmed to talk on Dream Act;

**Discussions:**

- Director thanked three commissioners of the committee for preparing flyer for the Forum;
- He mentioned that Sue Tucker is in charge of all County Press releases;
- He further mentioned that the news on forum is already posted in the OHR website;
- One commissioner suggested that the forum will need to discuss on What Next Steps To be Taken since the Dream Act issue will be decided on November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot, 2012, two weeks before the event;
- Selena stated that the Forum will discuss specific issues that were suggested at the preliminary meeting;

**COHV: Matthew Murguia**

- COHV retreat was put on hold due to an accident happened in Chairperson Lorraine Lee's family in North Carolina;

**CAB: William England**

- No report as Chairman is out of town

**CPD: Betsy jett**

- An issue on People with Disability will be put on the upcoming November Election ballot;

**IAFGC: Dr. Jeremiah Floyd**

- A series of issues were discussed at the last monthly meeting. However, Wells Fargo Settlement was a very important issue and the discussion took a significant time of the meeting;
- Mr. Steven Rosenbaum was a guest speaker at the meeting and discussed on Wells Fargo Settlement issue;
- Ms. Terri Jones, County Attorney, Mont. Co. Office of County Attorney was present at the meeting as a guest;
- Discussion on Wells Fargo Settlement issue was mentioned at the Director report.

5. **CRB Report:** Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager:

- o Current caseload: 138,
- o New intake: 21,
- o Case accepted from intake: 4,
- o Mediation: 6,
- o Cases with investigators: 85,
- o Management review: 21,
- o Awaiting Director's final review: 1,
- o Post Determination: 20,
- o Cases close in Fiscal Year: 225;

5. **Guest Speaker: Jackie Simmons**

- She discussed on the "Basic Access to Every New House" issue and distributed materials to the commissioners;
- Urged Commission to support this great cause of the mobility access population;
- Mont. County Executive Office is now working on drafting codes/laws to accommodate mobility access people;
- She also mentioned that County Council will take up this issue on it's own if County Executive fails to send request for legislation;

**Discussions:**

- Commissioner Sajjad Durrani asked Jackie Simmons that IAFCG to send a letter to the Commission with a request to support this cause;

6. **New Business and announcements:**

- Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs will have it's bi-monthly meeting at Rockville Memorial Library on Tuesday, August 26, 2012;
- Training for the Case Review Board will be held on October 19, 2012 from 8:30am to 4:30pm;
- Hall of Fame 2012 ceremony will be held on October 19, 2012 at the Black Rock Center, Germantown. Chairman Russell Campbell's name will be added to the Hall of Fame Committee list; Commissioner and HOF 2010 inductee Dr. Suresh Gupta will act as an official photographer of the event;

7. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:30pm

8. **Meeting Minutes:** Prepared by Anis Ahmed, Staff Liaison, OHR.

**Next meeting will be held on Monday, September 24,  
2012September 24, 2012 at 7:00pm**