

Montgomery County Government
Office of Human Rights
21 Maryland Ave.
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Meeting Minutes
of the
Human Rights Commission
Of 2012

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Ahmed, Anis

From: Vignolo, David (SAA) [David_Vignolo@saa.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:10 PM
To: Ahmed, Anis; Bonnie Malkin; Adams, Bruce; Chris Rutledge; Baker, David R.; David Vignolo (david.vignolo@verizon.net); MCPS, Dr. Gregory Bell; Fatou Gaye-Coulibay; Stowe, James L.; Janet Wormack; Arthur, Jean; Larry Smucker; Ridall, Linda; Lorraine Lee; Mark Poletow; Mark Poletow; Michelle Scott; Namatie Mansaray; Nicholas Crouch; Ruth Magin; Sartaj Dhami Singh (Work); Sartaj Singh Dhami (Personal); Susan Kerin; Thomas Nephew; Warner, Tim
Subject: Committee on Hate/Violence Meeting - February 8, 2012 - Minutes of the Meeting/Telephone Conference Call

Tonight's Committee on Hate/Violence (COHV) meeting is being conducted via telephone due to inclement weather; the telephone number used for our conference call this evening at 7:00 pm was 240-773-8120. The access code was 590235. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

COHV Voting Members in attendance on telephone conference call were:

1. David A. Vignolo, Chair
2. Sartaj Singh Dhami
3. Susan L. Kerin
4. Lorraine Lee-Stepney, Vice Chair
5. Ruth Magin
6. Thomas Nephew
7. Chris Rutledge
8. Larry Smucker, Secretary

COHV Non-voting members in attendance were:

1. James L. Stowe, Director, Office of Human Rights
2. Anis Ahmed, Office of Human Rights
3. Dave Baker (MCPD)

Mr. Victor Zapana, The Washington Post, was also on the call.

The Chair reviewed tonight's agenda for the benefit of those members of the public who were joining the meeting later and for those who were on the call.

The Chair updated Members about the current three (3) vacancies and the additional three (3) voting members who will not seek reappointment to the COHV (Chair, Bonnie Malkin, and Namatie Mansaray) at the conclusion of their current terms this month. Their terms end on February 29, 2012. As a result of the recent vacancy announcement in January 2012, the County Executive Liaison has 8 applications which are currently under review. We hope to begin interviews of applicants later this month. The Vice Chair will be the Acting Chair, effective March 1, 2012.

Director Stowe reported that 402 people attended the Community Symposium on Bullying held on Saturday, February 4, 2012. Chair recommended that the discussion about lessons learned about the symposium be deferred to next month. Members, however, should send the Chair and Vice Chair any thoughts or feedback about the symposium via email. The OHR Administrative Staff will review the evaluation forms which participants completed at the end of the event, and compile the general comments and themes into a single

document for review by the Committee next month.

Dave Baker gave his report. He will send Anis the police reports.

Discussed the request for support from COHV for a seminar on March 17, 2012 being hosted by the Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The seminar is on teen dating violence and cyber bullying. The Vice Chair will reach out to Ms. Tina Patterson to get more information on how they would like COHV to participate. If Members are interested in working with the Vice Chair, please let her know.

The Chair will attend the Boards, Committees, and Commissions Annual Meeting with the County Executive on February 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please let the Chair know as soon as possible. The format will be the same as last year. The County Executive will make remarks, followed by County staff. Questions will then be addressed as time permits. If you have any brief questions or concerns you would like raised with the County Executive, please send them to the Chair as soon as possible since the County Executive would like to see these in advance. **Only two or three representatives from each Board, Committee, or Commission is encouraged.**

Discussed Ms. Kerin's request that the Committee on Hate/Violence issue a statement to the County Executive supporting more public comment in the process of establishing Sister City partnerships. One idea is to recommend that the sister-city selection process include our county's "human rights matter" ideology in the review process, and that the County Executive reconsider the selection of Beit Shemesh, Israel, based on these concerns. There was discussion about the COHV expressing its view that an open, inclusive and transparent public comment process is needed in the overall sister-city program. A motion was made, and seconded, for the Chair to contact the board of Montgomery Sister Cities for more information about the selection of Beit Shemesh, Israel as the 2nd sister city, and the process they use, especially the extent to which input from County residents is solicited and factored into the selection of potential sister cities. In addition, the Chair will reach out to the Chair, Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Russell Campbell, Sr., to see what the Commission has learned about Sister Cities, and how sister cities were chosen, and what it is planning to do in response to this request.

At the request of the Chair, the Office of Human Rights will send all voting members the application forms for Member ID cards so they may have access to the library and the 3rd floor.

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. It was seconded, and unanimously approved. The next meeting of the COHV will be Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Vignolo, Chair
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