

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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Committee on Hate Violence

Montgomery County Office of Human Rights

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, Maryland 20850

COHV Meeting minutes of June 13, 2012

Voting Members Present: Nick Crouch, Sartaj Dhami, Susan Kerin, Chris Rutledge (by phone), Larry Smucker, Lorraine Lee Stepney (Acting Chair).

Non Voting Members Present: Director James Stowe (OHR), Anis Ahmed (OHR), Carole Brown (Member CERB) and Jean Arthur

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

CERB: Ms. Carole Brown, a member of the CERB board, attended the COHV meeting, as an observer. The Acting Chair explained the purpose of the County's periodic evaluation of citizen's advisory boards such as COHV. Ms. Brown explained that these evaluations reviewed the mission and structure of each advisory board to avoid overlapping mandates with other advisory boards. The goal is to have outstanding boards which can fulfill their mandates as envisioned by the County Council and senior Staff of key county agencies. The Chair and Ms. Brown felt that the CERB presentation of COHV was of good quality and would guide the organization well in the coming one to two years. The Chair thanked Ms. Brown for her collaboration with the board in successfully defining its mission going forward.

New COHV Members: Currently there are 7 vacancies on the Committee. The Acting Chair indicated that 10 prospective new members had submitted their resumes for consideration. Along with the Acting Chair, Ruth Magin has offered to serve as a volunteer on the nominating/interviewing committee. Nick Crouch offered to serve as an alternate member of the interviewing committee. Anis Ahmed will also serve on the nominating committee, representing the OHR. Dates for the interviews of prospective members will likely take place toward the end of July.

COHV Planning Session: The Acting Chair told the Committee that its annual Planning Session/Retreat would be held in August (in lieu of the monthly COHV meeting). COHV members will use the time at the retreat to discuss future plans and projects for the Committee.

Director Stowe explained that he has called for a steering group meeting regarding the Trayvon Martin case and its lessons for our County. The meeting was held under the leadership of Director Stowe, who gave it the title of "Courageous Conversation". Attendance included COHV members, Commission on Human Rights members, and Senior staff of the Montgomery County Public Schools. Follow up will include developing an approach to assure fairness for young people who might encounter violence and harassment as did Trayvon Martin.

In order to keep similar situations from emerging in Montgomery County, a series of courageous conversations should be established.

The Acting Chair noted that the next COHV meeting would be held on July 11. The Acting Chair then adjourned the current meeting at 8:00 PM

Minutes prepared by Larry Smucker (Secretary of the Committee)