

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

Meeting Minutes  
of the  
Human Rights Commission  
Of 2012

Staff Liaison: Anis Ahmed  
Contact: 240-777-8454  
[anis.ahmed@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:anis.ahmed@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**Amended 11-26-12**  
**Human Rights Commission**  
**Montgomery County Office of Human Rights**  
**21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, Maryland 20850**

---

**Draft HRC Meeting Minutes:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012.

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

**Commissioners Attended:** Russell Campbell (Chairman), Judge William England (Vice Chair), Barron Oakcrum, Dr. Jeremiah Floyd, Dr. Sajjad Durrani, Matthew Murguia, Stacey Ormsby (via phone) and Terry Vann;

Commissioners Excused Absence: Doug Ryan, Selena Singleton

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

**Guests Speakers:** Berry Gorman (CERB), Rashid Makhdoom (Muslim Community Center), Tufail Ahmad, Khalid Chaudhry, Sadiq H. Sadiq, Dr. Aquilur Rahman, Dr. Anwar Masood, Mirvat Sewadeh, Samira Hussain, Irma Hafeez (Montgomery County Muslim Council);

**1. Call to order:**

- **Meeting:** Chairman Russell Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- **Agenda:** Committee approved meeting Agenda;
- **Minutes:** Commission approved minutes of September 24, 2012 meeting with minor amendments.

**2. Introduction of Speakers:**

Chairman Russell Campbell introduced Speakers from Montgomery County Muslim Council to the commissioners:

**Khalid Chaudry: President, MCMC** Addressed on the following issues with distributing materials:

- He raised concern on behalf of MCMC on an advertisement which the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has allowed to be displayed at Four Metro Station in Maryland. The ad says "in any War between civilized Man and the Savage, Support the civilized Man/Support Israel, Defeat Jihad"
- He expressed that the Muslim's of Montgomery County are concerned about the situation;
- He sought advice from the Human Rights Commission on how to counter such offensive views in a constructive and democratic manner;
- Requested the Commission to determine that these ads amounts to Hate speech;
- To determine if WMATA's agreement to post these ads violates any of the Montgomery County or State of Maryland's Human Rights code;
- MCMC leaders will meet with WMATTA chairperson and other officials to express the council's concern about these ads and will request them to remove the ads;
- He urged the Human Rights Commission to issue a public statement against these ads;

- He also asked the Commission to take actions against these ads which the Commission, the Office of Human Rights and Committee on Hate/Violence deem appropriate;
- He urged Commission to write a letter to the County Executive and County Council to enact a code for the mobility access of people in the county;
- **Dr. Aquilur Rahman, Chairman MCMC:**
- MCMC does not stand against any "freedom of speech;
- Asked Commission to work together to stop spreading the hate;
- MCMC accepts the diversity in the County and proud to work with the county government, including Office of Human Rights and Human Rights Commission to eliminate hate violence;
- Urged the Commission to take action after investigation;
- Requested Commission to involve MCMC in its action plan;

#### ***Discussions:***

- Chairman Russell Campbell mentioned that County Executive Isiah Leggett has already made a statement against the ad;
- From his experience working as a civil rights activist during 1960's, Chairman stated that this ad will effect every citizen and community of the County.
- He also thanked MCMC leaders for showing their support for the HRC's movement in keeping Office of Human Rights as a department of the County;
- Commissioner Terry Vann urged the Commission to take the First Amendment very seriously before making any decision; He mentioned that a Federal Court already ruled in favor of posting the ad according to First amendment of the US constitution;
- Commissioner Jeremiah Floyd mentioned that the citizens of Chicago raised their voices on civil liberties issue with paying their respect to a Court ruling in 1970; He also urged the Commission to make a strong condemnation against the ad;
- Commissioner Sajjad Durrani urged the Commission to make a decision;

#### ***Decisions:***

- The Commission decided to send a press release condemning the hate advertisement against Muslim citizens of the county;
- The Commission also requested Commissioner Terry Vann to draft a press release by COB, Friday, 10/25/2012;

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

- He mentioned that still 4 commissioners are left to take photographs;
- He requested the remaining commissioner to take photographs by a county photographer ASAP;
- He thanked commissioners who volunteered at the World of Montgomery event;
- He mentioned that preparation for Hall of Fame 2012 event is almost completed;
- 8 notable County citizens will be inducted as Hall of Fame 2012;
- Several State and County elected officials including County Executive Isiah Leggett will attend the event;
- Each inductee will be awarded with one round medal, a crest, certificates from Maryland Governor and Montgomery County Office of Human Rights;
- The event will be followed by a reception;

- He requested commissioner to attend the event by 2:15 on the Hall of Fame 2012 event day;

**4. Committee Updates: Commissioner Barron Oakcrum:**

- Committee has selected speakers on 4 issues:
  - Commissioner Doug Ryan will be speaker on Housing issue;
  - Vivian Levy will be speaker on Domestic Violence;
  - Chief Manger will be speaker on Law Enforcement;
  - Either Gustavo Torres or Nancy Navarro will speak on Immigration/Dream Act issue;
- Asked for volunteers at the forum event;
- Finger food will be provided by Rock Terrance School Caterer;
- Staff Liaison Anis Ahmed will coordinate with Commissioner Barron Oakcrum in hall set up;

**5. Sub-Committee Report:**

- Sub-Committee reports were not able make due to lack of time;

**6. Meeting adjourned** at 8:42pm

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