**Commission for Women**

**General Meeting Minutes / Virtual  
January 11, 2024 / 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

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***“Defeating human trafficking is a great moral calling of our time.”  
  
Condoleezza Rice***

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Attendees   
Arlinda Clark, Chair

Isabel Argoti Vice Chair

Lindsey Turnbull, 2nd Vice Chair

Jodi Danis Ijeoma Enendu Kathy Estrada Janet LaValle Tonja Paylor Liz Richards

CFW Team Members   
Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Carmen Kaarid, Program Manager   
   
Absent

LaDonna King

Helene Meister

Kimberly Mouzon

Betty Romero

Tondalayo Royster

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**1.       WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK**

Happy New Year!

No Guests

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK**

January agenda accepted as presented

14 December minutes accepted as presented

6 December special meeting minutes accepted as presented

**3.       CFW CHAIR REPORT / CHAIR CLARK**

Need Nominations Committee

Let Chair know within this week if you are interested in serving on this committee

Chair will appoint committee in February

Role: Collects the names of nominees

Vice Chair Argoti volunteered for the Nominations Committee

Need Election Committee

Asked if anyone has election experience

Commissioner Turnbull has election experience

Role: Runs the election, counts the ballots

If you are planning to run for office, you cannot be on the Nominations or Elections Committee

Would like to do this electronically

Would prefer different people on the two committees, to keep roles separate

**4.    EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN**

Working on upcoming WLB, 28 JAN 24

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Policy and Legislation / Co-Chairs, Commissioners Royster and Meister

Session started yesterday

PALS preparing to advocate on priority CFW bills

Program Planning / Chair, Commissioner Enendu

Did not meet last month, will meet 22 JAN

Budget / Chair Clark

Have not spent any from the restrictive budget yet

Money spent this FY so far have been county money

Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee/ Commissioner Romero

Three focus priorities:

1. Women’s Economic and Financial Security
2. Women in Leadership, Education, & Workforce
3. Women’s Health, Safety, & Security

The above three priorities are formally adopted by the CFW

2023-2024 Strategic Focus: Women’s Economic and Financial Security

The CFW formally adopted Women’s Economic and Financial Security as our focus for 2023-2024

Emerging Leaders / Vice Chair Argoti and 2nd Vice Chair Turnbull

Working on Girl Power questions

Public Relations / Vice Chair Argoti

No Report

Women’s Legislative Briefing / Vice Chair Argoti

Buy ticket:

Ticketing Page Active: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-738129564397?aff=oddtdtcreator> (Early Bird: $40)

Press release went out today: <https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=44597>

Sign up to facilitate a breakout session (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AAAB28A0F4C25-46649251-2024#/>)

Emerging Leaders

Advocacy Session

Can sign up for two+ sessions, as long as the sessions are not running at the same time

Fireside chats with female County Executives

Need more hosts for the event: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBLH_kbdi6sVt6ZKmufuZGn-P7IHZibzGQmrCXFzuLaoc78Q/viewform>

Need to check if students can get SSL hours for volunteering at WLB

Will check with school system

Approved for SSL hours for attending the Emerging Leader track

Wear commissioner nametag to WLB

Media toolkit should be ready by end of the week

Chair’s Breakfast from 10am-12pm

Sponsors must designate who is coming

Commission is invited but must RSVP by this week (Danis, Argoti, Richards, Estrada, Lavalle, Paylor all RSVP’d during the meeting)

If attending breakfast, pick up registration packet there

Dress code is professional

Standard Operating Procedures / Commissioner LaValle

No Report

**6.** **LIAISON REPORTS**

MLAW / Commissioner Royster  
  
 MLAW priorities sent

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Commissioner Estrada  
  
 Meeting on 17 JAN

Today is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

#WearBlueDay – public awareness campaign

23 JAN – proclamation that January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month at the council building at 9:15am; also can view online/on social media

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner Royster

DVCC presented to over 2,000 students this semester

Maryland Commission for Women, Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

Trying to fill Executive Director vacancy

Choose Respect / Commissioner Royster

30 submissions so far; 7 FEB is closing date

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

No Report

CFW Scholarship / Commissioner Argoti

Montgomery College is having their recognition luncheon on Thursday, 28 MAR

**7.    AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

By-Laws / Chair Clark

No Report

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business

**9. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Janet is getting a dog (poodle)

Looking to do something social together in February

Thanks to Jodi and Carmen for all the prep they’ve done for the WLB!

Thank you to everyone that donated to Community Bridges' holiday gifts

The commission adopted a family of women for the holiday

**10.      Meeting Adjourned – 7:44pm**

CFW In Person Meetings Scheduled:

March 14, 2024

June 13, 2024

Upcoming Events:

WLB, 28 JAN

January is National Human Tracking Awareness Month