

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Monday, January 27, 2025**

Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting was virtually on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7 pm.

Commissioners Present: William England, Prof. Okianer Christian Dark, Alejandro Becerra, Janice Freeman, Dr. Suresh Gupta, Dr. Rahul Jindal, Rachel Breslin, Candace Groudine, Stephanie Mason, Nina Weisbroth and Terry Vann.

Commissioners Excused: Suzanne Lofhjelm.

Staff Attended: Director James Stowe, Compliance Manager Loretta Garcia, and Staff Liaison Anis Ahmed.

Chair: Called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Approval:

- Agenda for January 27, 2025, meeting was approved by common consent.
- November 18, 2024, meeting Minutes was approved by common consent.

Chairman's Report: Presentations:

Guest Speaker: Erin O'Connor, Director, Montgomery County Ethics Commission, Maryland.

- Introduction by Director James Stowe.
- Director Erin O'Connor delivered a presentation.
- Discussion followed the presentation.

Guest Speaker: Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, CASA, Maryland.

- Introduction by Director James Stowe.
- Lydia Walther-Rodriguez delivered a presentation.
- Discussion followed the presentation.

Director's Report and Announcements:

- Director James Stowe gave a report about the Montgomery County Dr. MLK Birthday Celebration, which was held on January 20, 2025, at the Strathmore Art Center, North Bethesda.
- Landson Museum will host a forum discussion on February 8, 2025. The NAACP Youth Wing is organizing this event.

- Dr. Floyd will deliver a presentation on Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome at the Rockville Public Library building, 1st floor meeting room on February 24, 2025.
- Dr. Joy Degruy will deliver a presentation on Healing Multigenerational Trauma-Community Conversation will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, from 9 am to 2 pm at the UMD Shady Grove Campus, 9630 Gudelski Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

Miscellaneous:

- OHR Compliance Manager Loretta Garcia updated commissioners on the following issues:
 - OHR Case Intake Log policies.
 - Case review – data and caseloads.

Breakout Session:

A breakout session was held among the commissioners present to discuss the retreat. Commissioners decided to discuss two issues at the Retreat.

- Presentation and discussion on health care.
- US Immigration.

Adjourned:

- The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.