

**Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement**  
**Community Relations Commission**  
**Conference Call**  
**Public Session Minutes**  
**February 20, 2019**

Participating in the meeting were Commissioners Rev. Todd Yeary (Chair via Phone), Stephen Ruckman, A. Adar Ayira, Nadine Finigan-Carr, Phillip Farfel. Absent: Commissioners, Whitehead and Adoté Akwei. Also present were staff: Darnell Ingram (Director), Raemond Parrott. Chair Yeary noted that this is a conference call due to the inclement weather.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved and seconded by Commissioners Finigan-Carr and Farfel that the January 16, 2019 public session minutes be approved as written. All were in favor and the motion carried.

III. Director's Report

1. Director Ingram introduced Cedric McCray in his absence as the new Deputy Director of the Office of Civil Rights. He stated that Mr. McCray will oversee the Wage Commission as well as outreach initiatives, legislative agenda and event management for the office.
2. First "Can We Talk" series canceled due to the weather. He stated that the discussion would have covered housing apartheid in Baltimore City. He is looking forward to more discussions.
3. Director Ingram gave a brief overview of the Human Rights Day in Annapolis.
4. Women's Heritage Month in March. Director Ingram will be planning a Women in Business discussion.
5. Dr. Finigan-Carr will be doing a think tank on March 21<sup>st</sup> regarding equity. There will be African American subject matter experts and people in Academics coming together to talk about the law and what can be done to address equity.
6. Director Ingram stated that the Civil Rights Breakfast after polling will be changed to an evening Gala.
  - a. Breakout sessions
  - b. Civil rights week
  - c. Reach out to Sharonda Huffman and Cedric McCray
  - d. Awaiting approval from Mayor for a Technology Disabilities conference – Fall 2020
  - e. Case closures – 5 cases settled with CRC, 162 cases under investigation

- f. Director talked about meeting with Johns Hopkins regarding the police Bill. The meeting was to discuss how the CRB would interact with the Hopkins police.
- g. Director Ingram is hoping to hire a CRC Supervisor in the next month or so.
- h. Mr. Parrott gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting and the concerns regarding the interaction with Hopkins Police.
  - i. Meeting to be rescheduled with President Franklin
  - ii. Director Ingram, Mr. Parrott and Deputy Director McCray met with the Washington-Hill Association near Broadway and Fells Point.
  - iii. Commissioner Ayira asked about the breakdown in disabilities in Baltimore City, i.e. race, income, community, type of disability. **Action:** Mr. Parrott will forward a breakdown for disabilities.
  - iv. Commissioner Farfel asked about a timeline on addressing systemic issues. He also asked if CRC has the finances to address these issues and can CRC use Article IV to address, identify, or make recommendations to address issues in the City including equity. Director Ingram stated that he does not have a timeline, but he had asked Dr. Finigan-Carr to identify areas where the Commission can be proactive in addressing civil rights or equity in the City. He also hopes to address equity issues within the “Can We Talk Series”. Commissioner Farfel thanked the staff and Dr. Finigan-Carr for addressing these issues.
  - v. **Action:** Chair Yeary and Commissioner Ruckman had asked Mr. Parrott for a print out of the raw data on the feedback for the Gala.
  - vi. Chair Yeary thanked the staff and Commissioner Finigan-Carr for representing CRC at Human Rights Day in Annapolis.

#### IV. Commissioners’ Report

- A. Chair Yeary spoke about engagement with the agency heads and addressing current issues. In addition, he asked that discussions between the Commission and agency heads become a sense of urgency. Issues to be addressed:
  - 1) Police Commissioner - He stated that it is important to meet with the new Police Commissioner on the basis of Article IV.
  - 2) School Safety – Board of Commissioners Meetings. Chair Yeary spoke about the shooting at Fredrick Douglass High School.
  - 3) Chief Ford – Fire Department regarding internal matters on employment
  - 4) Health and Safety – Aging facilities may be having an operational impact on the repair of these facilities in certain neighborhoods.
- B. Director Ingram stated that there are meeting plans.
  - 1) Invitation to meet with Department of Public Works.

C. **Action:** Director Ingram will speak to John Wesley about scheduling to meet with Chief Ford.

- 1) Commissioner Farfel would like include conversations about addressing equity issues, Kirwan, disparities, and discrimination.
- 2) **Action:** Rev. Yeary stated that Robin could do a Doodle Poll to find out whether there are other dates that can be used to address various subject matter outside of Commission meetings.

V. Open Forum

Commissioner Ruckman stated that the discussion about collecting raw data OCR had been addressed. Mr. Parrott stated that he is working with the Mayor's Office of Innovation to look at the data from OCR to provide qualitative and quantitative information. Commission Ruckman spoke about this information being important on the Annual Report and for Article IV responsibilities.

Chair Yeary asked whether the Baltimore Development Corporation and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore are subject to Article IV. **Action:** Rev. Yeary will check in-house. If no information, he will check with the Law Department.

Commissioner Ayira would like to recommend Dr. Tracey Durant for the March 21<sup>st</sup> event.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business, Chair Yeary closed the Public Session and moved into the Executive Session at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond  
Secretary III