

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Virtual Meeting
Public Session Minutes
November 16, 2022**

Participating in the virtual conference were Commissioners Todd Yeary (Chair), Adote Akwei, Amahl Foster, Yvette Ilechie, Reynaldo Evangelista, Phillip Farfel, Stephen Ruckman, Nadine Finigan-Carr, and Deyo Johnson. Also present were staff: Dana Moore (Chief Equity Officer and Director), Caylin Young (Deputy Director), Lisa Kelly (Chief of Investigations), Danielle Burton (Supervisor), Nate Cohen (Investigator), and Zelma Ortiz (Investigator).

I. Welcome/Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chair Yeary.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. The October 19, 2022 public session minutes were approved as presented.

III. Director's Report

A. Chair Yeary congratulated Director Moore and the OECR staff for Civil Rights Week.

1. Agency Hearing: Baltimore City Fire Department was successful.

Commissioner Johnson asked about feedback from the Fire Department Hearing.

a) Chief Kelly responded that she did not receive any feedback from the public

b) Chief Kelly did receive Commissioner Johnson's questions and will reach out to BCFD for more feedback.

2. Director Moore commended Chair Yeary on his participation at the Redlining and Reparations event.

3. Director stated that Jane Miller and Jessica Strauss will be partnering to help the City.

B. Director Moore outlined planning ideas for Civil Rights Week in 2023

a) October 20, 2023 – Friday – Breakfast/Brunch

b) October 21, 2023 - Saturday – Youth and youth programming

c) October 22, 2023 – Sunday - Baltimore Ecumenical Session

a) Chair Yeary agreed with the interfaith session

b) Commissioner Akwei suggested an outside venue

d) October 23-26, 2023 – Division programs

e) October 27 or 28 – Gala - Fundraising will begin soon

6. March 2023 - Women's Commission

a) Director Moore would like a women's symposium

b) Tentatively scheduled

7. February 2023 - Black History Month –

- a) Director Moore would like to continue Cannabis Equity conversations.
- b) Chair Yeary suggested meeting with Delegate Maddin-Smith prior to the legislative session.

C. Data

- 1. CRC Supervisor Danielle Burton gave the data for October.
 - a) 18 inquiries (11 via email) and 7 via phone (4 were in Spanish and received as a result of the Civil Rights Week)
 - b) 1 intake
 - c) No closing or restitution

IV. Commissioners' Report

- A. Commissioner Akwei asked how to find the statistics on immigrants living in Baltimore.
 - 1. Director Moore will follow-up with MIMA and Jordan Barry (Equity Dashboard).
 - 2. Commissioner Finigan-Carr responded that the Census numbers for Maryland are the official numbers.
- B. Commissioner Finigan-Carr would like the Commissioners to be included in the Civil Rights Week 2023 planning.
- C. Chair Yeary added suggestions to the July 2023 Working Session Agenda
 - 1. Connect with other communities that use English as a second language.
 - 2. Civil Rights Week 2023 planning
 - 3. Agency Hearings
 - 4. Check-in/follow-up on the planning during the March Session
- D. Commissioner Evangelista reminded Commissioners and staff that Director Moore will be giving a presentation at Anne Arundel Community College via Zoom at noon.

V. Open Forum

- A. Next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2022.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights