

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

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

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm by Chair Yeary.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- A. The December 15, 2021 minutes were approved. (Correction – Data appended)
- B. The January 19, 2022 minutes were approved with corrections. (Data appended)

III. Director's Report

A. Deputy Director Caylin Young

a. Status of Appointments

- i. Two Commissioners have been sworn-in to the Community Relations Commission - Dr. Yvette Ilechie and Dr. Reynaldo Evangelista.
- ii. Two additional names have been submitted to the Council in February. Potential hearing date will be set in March.

B. Chief Equity Officer and Director Dana Moore

a. Events

- i. On February 23, 2022, 6-7 pm. There will be a townhall on Advancing Health Equity. Director Moore will be leading the conversation along with the Baltimore City Health Department.
- ii. On March 3, 2022, Director Moore will be speaking about Redlining and the Civil Rights impact on the Roland Park Neighborhood and Hillside Park.
- iii. On March 26, 2022, Director Moore will be leading a townhall on the Baltimore City Equity mandate and the City's response from a racial equity lens.
- iv. Director Moore reminded everyone that the deadline for filing Financial Disclosures is April 30, 2022.

C. Ms. Lisa Kelly

- a. Data
 - i. Ms. Kelly gave highlights of the CRC data report for informational purposes. (data appended to minutes)
 - ii. 133 Open investigations (includes 122 employment complaints – 63 are from the backlog, 10 housing complaints, and 1 public accommodations complaint).
 - iii. January 2022
 - 1. Complaints authorized for investigation = 1
 - 2. Complaints closed =2 (Closed through negotiated resolution =2)
 - iv. Ms. Kelly also attached the January 2022 statistical data.
- b. Trainings and Events
 - i. CRC Staff attended trainings regarding a new EEOC database (ARC).
 - ii. On January 12, 2022, CRC staff attended a training provided by the Fair Housing Action Center of Maryland regarding the HOME Act regarding the State's anti-discriminatory provision regarding source of income.
 - iii. One training was presented to City Government.

IV. Commissioners' Report

- A. Chair Yeary and Commissioner Finigan-Carr commended Deputy Director Young for his work to bring Commissioners on board and for the staff's hard work.
- B. Commissioner Akwei raised the question of Commissioners working for free and asked about a stipend. In addition, he commented on the need for the francophone community to be a part of the Commission, but he had been unable to convince them to join without a stipend.
 - i. Chair Yeary agreed that the voices of the City's diverse population need to be heard, and he thanked Commissioner Akwei for raising the issue. He stated that while the work is very important, by the City Charter, Commissioners are unpaid; however, members may be reimbursed for parking. He spoke about the continued work of the Commission due to the very dedicated staff and the commitment of the 5 members of the Board.
 - ii. Director Moore confirmed that by the Charter, Commissioners are unpaid. She commended all Commissioners for their commitment and hard work.
- C. Commissioner Finigan-Carr spoke about resubmission of an application for funds to establish a Baltimore City Youth Violence Prevention Center. Action: Director Moore would like to meet and discuss further with Chair Yeary, Deputy Director Young, Supervisor Branch, and Caron Watkins (Equity Division).

V. Open Forum

- A. All Commissioners introduced themselves.

B. Ms. Kantria Branch (CRC Supervisor) introduced herself.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

Metrics	January		Total (Since July)	
Number of inquiries	35		226	
	On-line/Email inquiries	6	On-line/Email inquiries	37
	Telephone inquiries	29	Telephone inquiries	189
	In-person inquiries	0	In-person inquiries	0
Number of intakes	1		5	
Number of completed investigations	2		38	
Number of administrative closures	0		6	
Number of settled investigations	2		8	
Number of withdrawn investigations (w/o settlement)	0		5	
Number of findings concluded as NPC	0		18	
Number of findings concluded as PC	0		1	
Amount of Restitution	\$55,000.00		\$96,000.00	

Month	Case Closures	Restitution
January	2	\$55,000.00
February		

March		
April		
May		
June		
July	4	\$0.00
August	10	\$17,500.00
September	10	\$0.00
October	8	\$0.00
November	2	\$16,500.00
December	2	\$7,000.00

CY22 Total	2	\$55,000.00
FY21-22 Total	38	\$96,000.00