

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Public Session Minutes
February 19, 2020**

Participating in the meeting were Commissioners Todd Yeary (Chair), Stephen Ruckman (phone), Phillip Farfel (phone), and A. Adar Ayira (phone). Also present were staff: Darnell Ingram (Director), Raemond Parrott (Deputy Director) Lisa Kelly (Supervisor), and Danielle Burton, Lauren Jackson, Zelma Ortiz, Carla Royal and Linda Batts.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:13 pm. Chair Yeary called for the Director's Report.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

III. Director's Report

A. Director Ingram spoke about the Equity Division, and he introduced Ms. Linda Batts.

B. Director Ingram spoke on the Bmore Me initiative and their MLK projects.

C. Outreach

a. Director Ingram attended a February Meeting with Dr. Santelises

b. BMore Me initiative

c. Staff engaged in various MLK projects

a. Sandtown Winchester Academy

b. Pennsylvania Ave Market

d. Fair Housing Webinar – Lauren Jackson

e. “Can We Talk”- January regarding food insecurity in Baltimore City children

f. February 21st – Human Rights Day in Annapolis

D. Data Analytics

a. 132 inquiries since July

o 15 inquiries in January

b. 58 intakes since the fiscal year

c. Investigations since the fiscal year

1) 45 completed investigations

2) 30 settled investigations

▪ 3 settled in January

3) 3 withdrawn investigations (w/o settlement)

4) 4 NPC's

- 5) 0 PC's
- d. Total amount of restitution - \$2,000 since January and \$349,091.19 since July.
- e. Other complaints
 - o 14 housing
 - o 2 public accommodations
- E. Lisa Kelly (Supervisor) gave highlights on the public accommodation case. Ms. Kelly announced that they are expecting 100-150 cases from EEOC to be distributed among the investigators.

Deputy Director Parrott announced that all investigators in the office have been reclassified and that 100-150 cases will be distributed among all investigators and not just CRC.

- F. Ms. Linda Batts shared information regarding the Equity Team.
 - i. Equity ordinance
 - ii. Training plan for equity coordinators
 - iii. Training plan for Executive leadership of Baltimore City Government
 - iv. **Action:** Rev. Yeary will contact the Abel Foundation regarding possible resources.

IV. Commissioners' Report and Open Forum

No report.

Chair Yeary noted that the next meeting is scheduled for March 18th. In addition, he and Commissioner Ruckman asked about the status of the nominees to fill the CRC vacancies. Deputy Director Parrott is waiting for a response from the Appointments Committee and has not received information regarding the hearings and there is possibly a delay. Chair Yeary suggested a note to the Appointments Chair to see if it is possible to expedite the hearings since meeting a quorum has been a challenge. He also noted that Commissioner Maddin-Smith's availability will be limited as she is the Chair of the Baltimore City Delegation, and Commissioner Whitehead's availability is in question.

Commissioner Farfel asked about the letter to be drafted to Dr. Santelises. The letter has not been drafted.

The Executive Session was dispensed due to lack of a quorum. The approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

There was no further business to discuss.

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There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm until the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond