

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Virtual Meeting
Public Session Minutes
March 15, 2023**

Participating in the virtual conference were Commissioners Nadine Finigan-Carr (Acting Chair/Secretary), Amahl Foster, Reynaldo Evangelista, Phillip Farfel, Yvette Ilechie, and Deyo Johnson. Also present were staff: Danielle Burton (Supervisor), Zelma Ortiz (Investigator), Andrea Pineda (Investigator), and Nate Cohen (Investigator).

I. Welcome/Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm Acting Chair Finigan-Carr.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. The February 22, 2023 public session minutes were approved with one correction.

III. Director's Report

A. Supervisor Danielle Burton gave the Director's Report.

1. CRC staff continues to work on outreach and education presentations regarding Article IV, fair housing and employment discrimination. – April 2023.
2. CRC staff has been working to support the upcoming Department of Planning investigative hearing. – April 12, 2023, 6:00 pm, City Hall.
 - i. Action: Acting Chair Finigan-Carr asked questions about changing the hearing date. CRC staff will work to establish another date and time that works for the Commissioners and for Delegate Maddin-Smith.
3. CRC received an additional 20 transfer cases from the EEOC, increasing the number of deferred cases from the EEOC to 35.
4. Supervisor Burton is working to obtain the required number of investigations to meet our contract.

B. Data (attached)

1. February 2023

C. Legislative updates

1. OECR supports Bill #SB47 *Evidence – Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance – Fair Housing Testing*¹
2. OECR supports Bill #HB264/SB400 *Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning*²

¹ *Senate bill 47 - mgaleg.maryland.gov.* (n.d.). Retrieved April 2023, from <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/sb/sb0047F.pdf>

² *Legislation - SB0264*, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0264>.

3. OECR supports Bill #HB1066 *Hate Crimes – Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention – Establishment*³
4. OECR supports Bill #HB705 *Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom*⁴
5. Acting Chair Finigan-Carr asked if CRC had been in support of Human Trafficking and the Safe Harbor Bill.
 - i. Supervisor Burton responded that the Wage Commission has been working in support of Human and Labor Trafficking and may have the Safe Harbor Bill in their legislative updates. Action: Supervisor Burton will check with that division.
 - ii. Acting Chair Finigan-Carr referred to HB0297/SB292 *Criminal Law-Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking – Safe Harbor and Service Response* as a Civil Rights issue.⁵

D. Administrative

1. OECR administration has received additional interest letters and resumes for board member consideration. Staff will review, schedule interviews, and Director Moore will make her recommendations to the Mayor.
2. Acting Chair Finigan-Carr asked for the current number of CRC Commissioners. Ms. Drummond responded that it is nine.
3. Commissioner Foster asked about updating the CRC Website with pictures, bios, and titles on the Board.

IV. Commissioners' Report

- A. Commissioner Foster spoke about a sexual harassment charge by a DPW employee at Loch Raven High School. Acting Chair Finigan-Carr asked if the employee was on the list that was report to CRC. Supervisor Burton responded that this person was not reported and may have been handled internally.
 - i. Supervisor Burton stated that DPW needs sexual harassment training which would be handled by the State, but the Commission can possibly recommend training as well.
 - ii. Action: Acting Chair Finigan-Carr suggested a letter 1) recommending training for all employees, 2) noting discrepancies in the reporting from the hearing, and 3) in light of the incident reported at Loch Raven High.
 - iii. Commissioners suggested meeting with DPW's human resources and EEO departments. Action: Supervisor Burton will notify Chief Kelly and copy Chair Yeary and Commissioner Finigan-Carr.
- B. Commissioner Farfel spoke about HB0009/SB0019 Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses. Commissioner Farfel stated that this will put into law

³ Legislation - HB1066, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1066>.

⁴ House Bill 705 - Mgaleg.maryland.gov. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0705t.pdf>.

⁵ House Bill 297 - Mgaleg.maryland.gov. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0297E.pdf>.

Civil Rights protections for communities when certain MTA analyses and service changes are conducted. He would recommend that CRC supports this bill.⁶

C. Supervisor Burton will follow-up on any updates regarding Civil Rights Week.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

Statistical Data

Metrics	Feb		Total	
Number of inquiries	11		120	
	Online/Email Inquiries	8	Online/Email Inquiries	60
	Telephone inquiries	3	Telephone inquiries	60
	In-person inquiries	0	In-person inquiries	0
Number of intakes	1		2	
Number of completed investigations	1		29	
Number of administrative closures (NRTS)	0		6	
Number of settled investigations	0		1	
Number of withdrawn investigations (w/o settlement)	1		5	
Number of findings concluded as NPC	0		17	
Number of findings concluded as PC	0		0	

⁶ House Bill 9 - Mgaieg.maryland.gov. <https://mgaieg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0009e.pdf>.

Amount of Restitution	\$0	\$2000
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Month	Case Closures	Restitution
July	3	\$0
August	1	\$0
September	24	\$2,000
October	0	\$0
November	1	\$0
December	0	\$
January	0	\$
February	0	\$
March		\$
April		\$
May		\$
June		\$

FY22-23 Total	\$2000