

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Virtual Meeting
Public Session Minutes
April 28, 2021**

Participating in the virtual conference were Commissioners Todd Yeary (Chair), Adote Akwei, Nadine Finigan-Carr, Phillip Farfel, and Stephen Ruckman. Also present were staff: Dana Moore (Chief Equity Officer and Director), Cedric McCray (Deputy Director), Lisa Kelly (Supervisor), Danielle Burton, Lauren Jackson, and Zelma Ortiz.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. January 27, 2021

- a. Minutes were approved with the noted corrections. A draft will be attached at the next meeting for review.

III. Director's Report

- a. Director Moore gave an introduction of her role and vision. She spoke about the Mayor's mandate on the basis of equity and racism. She will be focusing on:
 - i. Building a task force of demonstrated leaders who can help find real solutions to the issues of equity and racism.
 - ii. Funding
 - iii. ADA compliance
- b. Commissioners discussed
 - i. The American Recovery Act
 - ii. Public hearings
 - iii. The Data Equity Officer
 - iv. Action: Director Moore will follow-up on the status of Board appointments
 - v. Action: Chair Yeary and Commissioner Farfel spoke about a Capital Improvement Program. Chair Yeary will forward the Capital Improvement information to Commissioners.

B. Deputy Director McCray gave the data and outreach reports

- a. Outreach –
 - i. February

1. Ms. Kelly spoke to students at University of Maryland Carey School of Law regarding mediation partnerships with the Office of Equity and Civil Rights.
 2. Staff attended a meeting with Baltimore Community Mediation. The Memorandum of Understanding is under review by the Law Department.
 3. Staff trained 260 housing professionals during the month of February
 4. Fair Housing month activities
 - a) Exhibits sponsored by Parks and People Foundation
- ii. March
1. Staff attended trainings on:
 - a) Labor Trafficking - March 1
 - b) Litigating Housing Cases sponsored by the Fair Housing Training Academy – March 8-11
 - c) Urban Land Institute
 2. Bus shelter and small billboard Ads were posted to educate the public on housing discrimination as part of the HUD & Covid19 grant
- b. Board Metrics for CRC:
- i. February 2021
 1. Trainings – 8
 2. complaints closed p/investigator - 1.5
 3. % of complaints closed within 250 days after authorization - 40%
 - ii. March 2021
 1. Trainings - 2
 2. complaint authorized for investigation - 10
 3. complaints closed p/investigator - 1
 4. % of complaints closed within 250 days after authorization - 100%

C. Administrative updates

- a. Deputy Director McCray and Ms. Kelly will work on the EEOC contract and request a change in the requirements to fulfill the contract.

IV. Commissioners' Report

- A. Commissioner Akwei suggested an in-person, CRC meeting in May assuming that each person is vaccinated. Chair Yeary asked for a little more patience due to an upward trend in the virus. He is hoping for an in-person Working Session in July.

V. Open Forum

A. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021 at 8:30 am via Teams.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights