

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Telephone Conference
Public Session Minutes
May 20, 2020**

Participating in the phone conference were Commissioners Todd Yeary (Chair), Stephen Ruckman, Phillip Farfel, Adote Akwei, A. Adar Ayira, Stephanie Maddin-Smith, and Nadine Finigan-Carr. Also present were staff: Raemond Parrott (Director), Cedric McCray (Deputy Director), Lisa Kelly (Supervisor), Danielle Burton, Zelma Ortiz, Sandra Byrd, Carla Royal, M'balu, and Hugh Scoggins.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:05 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. February 19, 2020

- a. It was moved and seconded by Commissioners Ruckman and Maddin-Smith that the February 19, 2020 Public Session Minutes be approved as submitted. All were in favor and the minutes were accepted into record.

B. April 15, 2020 were approved

- a. It was moved and seconded by Commissioners Finigan-Carr and Ayira that the April 15, 2020 Public Session Minutes be approved as submitted. All were in favor and the minutes were accepted into record.

III. Director's Report

A. Deputy Director Cedric McCray gave event highlights for the month of April

a. Fair Housing month

- i. Staff gave virtual Fair Housing weekly presentations to inform residents about their rights in English and Spanish
- ii. Increase calls and complaints from the Latin-X community.
- iii. Trainings and Webinars

b. Data

- i. 94 Complaints authorized for investigation.
- ii. 12 complaints closed
- iii. 52% - closed 250 days after authorization
- iv. 54% - closed through negotiated resolution

c. Staff are continuing to telework

B. Director Parrott was unable to attend at that time.

- C. Commissioners discuss testing and access to testing
 - a. Commissioner Maddin-Smith suggested a briefing for Commissioners at the Federal, State and local health department levels.
 - b. Commissioners discussed issues of distrust, contact tracing, data and testing capacity.
 - c. **Action:** Commissioner Maddin-Smith will email to Commissioners a PowerPoint presentation from the Health Department regarding data as of 5/18. The data would include totalities of testing of where the testing took place.
 - d. **Action:** Commissioners will review the information offline sent by Commissioner Maddin-Smith and then determine the next steps at a later date.

IV. Commissioners' Report and Open Forum

- A. Chair Yeary commented on Commissioner Akwei's questions about the issue of quality of care across systems that serve the City. If so, what is the follow-up from Health Department at the City or State levels. Chair Yeary Commissioner Finigan-Carr to handle how to frame those questions as questions on variations of care arise now and in the future.
- B. **Action:** Chair Yeary had asked Commissioners to look over the suggested dates and times to meet with Commissioner Harrison and give their availability to Ms. Drummond. He stated that this will be a follow-up to the issues that had been occurring in various agencies.

V. Open Forum

- A. Next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020.
- B. Deputy Director McCray spoke about the dates to meet with Commissioner Harrison and has asked Ms. Drummond to send the dates along with the WebEx information. In addition, he stated that Commissioner Harrison's staff had been briefed on the topics of concern.
- C. Chair Yeary spoke about the issue of in-person instruction in Baltimore City public schools. Commissioner Farfel is taking the lead on how these issues will be addressed.
- D. Commissioner Ruckman is leading the Employment Committee.
- E. Chair Yeary asked that Commissioners Finigan-Carr, Ayira and Maddin-Smith to work on the Public Health issue and the pandemic response.
- F. Director Parrott stated that he has been given a date in June for the nominees to go before the City Council which includes the nominee given by Commissioner Ruckman.
- G. Chair Yeary reminded the Commissioners that July is the month for a working retreat and possibly the first month of the new Commissioner. He asked everyone to think about how to function as a Commission at that time given the pandemic.

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There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond

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