

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Virtual Meeting
Public Session Minutes
June 16, 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), Lauren Jackson, and Zelma Ortiz.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. May 12, 2021

- a. The May 12, 2021 Public Session Minutes were approved.

III. Director's Report

A. Director Moore gave updates on her progress in the office and improvements in the City.

a. Appointments

- i. Director Moore and Chief of Staff Farahmand interviewed candidates for the OECR divisions.
- ii. Director Moore stated that she had communicated to the Mayor's Office the urgent need for appointments at OECR.
- iii. Currently, a few candidates have been moved forward.

b. Administration

- i. An independent contractor was hired to assist with the backlog.
- ii. Director Moore attended a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training for City Leadership.
- iii. In addition, she spoke about upholding the Mayor's promise to lead with equity

c. Rescue Plan - update

- i. Director Moore will follow up on the progress of the Rescue Plan projects.
- ii. Director Moore gave a brief overview of the status of projects and funding.
- iii. Currently there is no deadline or criteria set for the submission of proposals.

- iv. Director Moore will follow-up on parameters and information for submission of proposals
- B. Deputy Director McCray presented the office metrics
 - a. Staff participation
 - i. Fair Housing – FAQ’s Webinar hosted by Transcend, Inc. - 5/18/21
 - ii. Collateral Damage concerning the consequences of Racial Bias and Residential Appraisal process event.
 - iii. Conflict resolution in the workplace event hosted by Maryland Commission on Civil Rights – 5/24/21
 - iv. OECR hosted Fair Housing art installation at Parks and People – April 2021
 - C. Deputy Director McCray gave the data and outreach reports.
 - a. Outreach –
 - i. April
 - 1. CRC hosted a fair housing art installation during the month of April 2021 which was a visual summary of fair housing in Baltimore City.
 - b. Board Metrics for CRC:
 - i. As of June 11, 2021
 - 1. Open Investigations – 202
 - 2. Employment complaints - 186
 - 3. Housing complaints – 14
 - 4. Public accommodation complaints - 2
 - ii. May 2021
 - 1. Presentations and trainings - 3
 - 2. complaints authorized for investigation - 6
 - 3. complaints closed per investigator – 2.25
 - 4. % of complaints closed within 250 days after authorization - 56%
 - 5. % of complaints closed through negotiated resolution – 22%
 - iii. No legislative updates
 - iv. Deputy Director McCray’s last day is Friday, June 18, 2021.
Commissioners thanked Deputy Director McCray for his hard work and wished him well.

IV. Commissioners’ Report

- A. Commissioner Finigan-Carr commented on concerns surrounding rent support, eviction moratoriums, and similar issues.
 - a. Potential current housing problems
 - b. World Cup in 2026
 - c. Long-term housing issues

- d. Chair Yeary mentioned that these housing issues could also impact City schools and neighborhoods
- e. Commissioner Finigan-Carr spoke about the vaccination rates and the impact on Baltimore City school students.
- B. Commissioner Farfel spoke about a report created by the Fund for Educational Excellence. The report, “Not in Service” highlighted issues with public transit services for students.¹
 - a. Commissioner Finigan-Carr spoke about the costs for bussing and curbside spacing for transporting students in Baltimore City.
 - b. Chair Yeary asked whether the transportation issue might fall under Title VI and would it be a feasible discussion to raise.
 - 1. **Action:** Chair Yeary asked Commissioners Farfel and Finigan-Carr to help frame and list the issues from the report that could be included in his conversation with the Lt. Governor.
 - 2. **Action:** Chair Yeary asked Deputy Director McCray and Supervisor Kelly to suggest other Commissions at the State level that might be willing to collaborate on similar transportation issues.

V. Open Forum

- A. The next meeting is a working session scheduled for July 28, 2021 at noon via Teams.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

¹ Schoenberg, C., Wyatt, K., & Farfel, R. (2021, June). Not In Service: Why Public Transit Must Aim To Serve Students (Rep.). Retrieved https://ffee.org/wp-content/uploads/FFEE_NotInService_2021_fsingle-Final.pdf