

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Virtual WorkGroup Meeting
Public Session Minutes
July 15, 2020**

Participating in the phone conference were Commissioners Todd Yeary (Chair), Phillip Farfel, Adote Akwei, A. Adar Ayira, Stephen Ruckman, and Nadine Finigan-Carr. Also present were staff: Raemond Parrott (Director), Cedric McCray (Deputy Director), Lisa Kelly (Supervisor), Danielle Burton, Lauren Jackson, Zelma Ortiz, Carla Royal, M'balu Bangura, Colin Brineman, Sharonda Huffman, Shainfiny Wooden and Hugh Scoggins.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:04 pm. Chair Yeary confirmed that a quorum had been established.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. June 17, 2020

- a. The June 17, 2020 Public Session Minutes were approved as submitted. All were in favor and the minutes were accepted into record.

III. Director's Report

A. Director Parrott gave highlights:

- a. One new hire (Colin Brineman).
- b. Civil Rights Week is almost finalized.
- c. The Office has partnered with the Maryland Film Festival and Everyman Theater highlighting fair housing.
- d. The Equity Report is almost complete to include the Health Department.
- e. Data – listed in handout

B. Civil Rights Breakfast tentatively moved to next year. Director Parrott will send a draft of the Agenda to Commissioners regarding Civil Rights Week August 24-28th.

- a. Chair Yeary would like the Congressional and Senatorial delegation to give a status of the Federal protections in response to Housing and COVID19.

IV. Commissioners' Report

A. Chair Yeary asked Director Parrott about the posture of the Office regarding COVID19 testing issues from the underserved communities.

- i. Director Parrott gave a brief status on communications and feedback from the Health Department which has been slow. He suggested a letter

from the Commission stating any concerns with targeted recommendations.

- ii. Chair Yeary asked Dr. Finigan-Carr for her opinion. She stated that it is difficult to say that the communities are disproportionately impacted as a City based on race and ethnicity without some other measures in place. She stated that it does not appear that anyone is collecting that data, and it may be difficult to obtain at this level.
- iii. Commissioner Ruckman gave a link to the Hopkins dashboard on COVID19. Commissioner Farfel asked if the Commission might be able to reach out to Hopkins for more data. Commissioner Ruckman stated that he will reach out to his colleague at Hopkins.
- iv. Commissioner Akwei spoke about having the appropriate resources getting out to the right communities. He asked if this is part of the Commission's work to ensure that the right resources are distributed to the right communities under the CARES Act. Action: Chair Yeary made a note to call Senator Van Hollen to get a status.
- v. Chair Yeary asked Commissioner Ayira for an update on the racial equity lens and how it may relate to the work of the Commission. She spoke about her position as the co-chair on the Maryland Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity. They are working on the policy recommendations and barriers for health, education, housing and law enforcement.

V. Open Forum

- A. Ms. Lisa Kelly asked Colin Brineman to introduce himself.
- B. Next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2020.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights