

Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement
Community Relations Commission
Telephone Conference
Public Session Minutes
March 21, 2018

Participating in the meeting were Commissioners Rev. Todd Yeary (Chair), Phillip Farfel, Adote Akwei, Karsonya Whitehead, A. Adar Ayira, Stephen Ruckman. Also present were Jill P. Carter, Director, Charles Byrd, Deputy Director, Raemond Parrott, Troy Pumphrey, Danielle Crawley, and Shavey Blackwell. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

I. Welcome

II. Approval of the Minutes

The February 21, 2018 minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Ayira stated that she had a meeting with Director Carter about involving the Office of Civil Rights in the equity work of Associated Black Charities.

Commissioner Ruckman stated that he did meet with Director Ben Seigel of 21st Century Cities regarding their survey instruments and Ban-the-Box will be placed on 21st Century's agenda.

Commissioner Whitehead spoke about the Mayor's new Women's Commission and that she had been selected to be a part of that Commission. She would like to see how the Women's Commission and the Community Relations Commission can be combined by finding any overlaps to help strengthen the work of CRC as well as connect to the communities.

Chair Yeary asked about the any background documentation on the scope of the Women's Commission.

Action: Commissioner Whitehead will get the information on the Women's Commission, however, she mentioned that the scope has changed with a meeting on March 27th with Mayor Pugh and April Ryan. As Commissioner Whitehead gets the information on the goals and aims, she will forward them to Robin to send to the Commissioners.

IV. Director's Report

Director Carter thanked everyone for participating in the CRC meeting on a bad weather day including her staff. She introduced Shavey Blackwell and Danielle Crawley as the new investigators and welcomed them to their first meeting of the Commission.

Director Carter spoke about the participation of Commissioners Yeary and Ayira in the panel discussion for Human Rights Day in Annapolis and felt their input was invaluable. She also commended everyone who participated as well as the participating counties.

Director Carter was glad to hear about the grant opportunity from Commissioner Ruckman and that 21st Centuries Cities was willing to assist in the surveys. She is also excited to work with Commissioner Ayira and Associated Black Charities and with Commissioner Whitehead and the Women's Commission.

Action: Director Carter asked each Commissioner to reach out to their organization and look for ways to collaborate and carry out the Mission.

She also expressed her appreciation on the increase in authorizations.

Currently, there is no response on the nomination of the new Commissioners.

Director Carter reminded Commissioner Yeary about the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act on April 11th.

Commissioner Whitehead asked if there is a way that the Commission can combine with those who are participating in the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination. She suggested that they use different platforms to educate the public. Commissioner Yeary agreed asked for two volunteers. Commissioners Ayira and Whitehead agreed to meet with Director Carter to work on this project going forward.

V. Open Forum

Chair Yeary mentioned that Commissioner Heaton has forwarded the draft letter, and he will read and forward it to Director Carter to prepare for signature, and he will prepare the surveys as well.

There was no further business.

There being no further business, the Commission voted to adjourn the Public Session at 12:21 p.m. and move into the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Secretary III