

Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement
Community Relations Commission
Telephone Conference
Public Session Minutes
November 15, 2017

Participating in the meeting were Commissioners Rev. Todd Yeary (Chair), Syeetah Hampton-El, Phillip Farfel, Adote Akwei, A. Adar Ayira, Stephen Ruckman, and Karsonya Whitehead. Also present were Jill P. Carter, Director and Troy Pumphrey. The meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m.

I. Welcome

II. Approval of the Minutes

The October 18, 2017 Public Session Minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Hampton-El announced that she will be leaving the Commission in January as she has been selected as an Administrative Law Judge.

Chair Yeary asked about the Workgroup Minutes being subject to public discovery. Commissioner Hampton-El said that the Working Committee is considered an executive session and not subject to public discovery.

Commissioner Hampton-El is working on the Rules & Procedures. There were still changes to be made. She has the language and will put it together to send out to Commissioners.

Commissioner Ayira spoke about the Diversity and Inclusion Committee members wanting to attend a presentation given by Director Carter.

IV. Director's Report

Director Carter stated that she is still looking to fill the supervisor and investigator positions; this opening will close on November 17th. She is still waiting for a response from the recommendation for a Commissioner to replace Carrie Evans. Any Commissioner who was not sworn in at the Civil Rights Breakfast can be added to the Mayor's list with the new CRB Commissioners.

Director Carter announced that Deputy Director Thomas, Ginnea Morton and Khadriah Ward are at an EEOC mini conference for training. She also stated that Commissioner Hampton-El does have a suggested replacement for her position when she leaves.

Commissioner Farfel did set up the meeting with the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers coming up on December 13th. If anyone has any suggestions on things to be addressed at that meeting, please speak to Director Carter.

Director Carter suggested that the Commissioners discuss a second workgroup session to address items that were discussed at the previous meeting. Commissioners are asked to please consider a community outreach contribution or donation during the upcoming holiday season as a Commission.

Chair Yeary asked if there are activities that are scheduled that could benefit from the Commission's support. Director Carter and Dr. Whitehead spoke about the Mothers of Murdered Sons/ Daughters (M.O.M.S.) organization. They have an event on December 16th and the Commission agreed to follow-up as a suggested outreach activity.

There was a discussion about the backlog of 60 cases with a contract agreement of 41 cases closures. Chair Yeary suggested a meeting with Director Carter regarding the backlog.

V. Open Forum

Chair Yeary spoke about the national conversation on unreported or underreported incidents of hostile work environment and sexual harassment in public agencies. Because this issue has now crossed over from private entities to public sessions, Chair Yeary questioned whether the Commission should issue a state of the work environment in city agencies.

Commissioner Akwei wanted to share information about the unrest in his home in West Africa. He agreed to send out the last press release of the issues.

Commissioner Farfel and Chair Yeary spoke about the recommendations and requirements under Article 4 and how the Commission might keep a working timeline and outline to follow along with Article 4.

There was no further business.

There being no further business, the Commission voted to adjourn the Public Session at 9:13 a.m. and move into the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Secretary III