

Office of Equity & Civil Rights
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2023

Participants:

1. Adam Levine – Law Department
2. Aloma Bouma – National Federation of the Blind
3. C. Maria Stokes – Enoch Pratt Free Library
4. Crystal Bright – Office of Emergency Management
5. David Greenberg – League for People with Disabilities
6. Dianne M. Blevins - Citizen
7. JB Begue – Baltimore City Association of the Deaf
8. Keina Overton – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
9. Kimberly Grade – Employment Committee
10. Laetitia Griffin – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
11. Larry Ennels – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
12. Marlene S. Hendler – Transportation Committee
13. Martin French – Baltimore City Planning Department
14. Michael Trentadue – Accessible Tech Pro
15. Michelle “Shelly” Smith – Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management
16. Sharonda Huffman – Maryland Inclusive Housing
17. Yojinde Paxton – Baltimore City Public Schools

Guests

18. Sheryl Cooper – ASL Interpreter
19. Valerie Kline – ASL Interpreter

Office of Equity and Civil Rights staff:

20. Danielle Burton – Supervisor (Community Relations Commission)
21. Hugh Scoggins – Program Compliance Officer
22. Lisa Kelly – Chief of Investigations
23. Robin Drummond – Special Assistant

I. Welcome/Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Aloma Bouma at 1:05 pm.
- b. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Opening Remarks

- a. Opening remarks were given by Chairperson Aloma Bouma.
- b. She would like Commissioners to think about establishing priorities for policies, actions, documents, legislation, organization, and structure of the Commission.

III. Director's Report – Lisa Kelly (Chief of Investigations)

- a. Updates in review:
 - i. Office of Equity and Civil Rights staff are working with the Chair to update the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities member handbook.
 - a) Committee construction
 - b) Board meetings
 - ii. Ms. Kelly talked about the purpose of the handbook
 - a) Focuses on memberships, mission, purpose, and duties
 - b) Includes newsletters and reports
- b. Administrative activities
 - i. OECR staff and members of the MCD conducted interviews for an attorney that knows the Americans with Disabilities Act and other related statutes. In addition, this attorney will work with the Law Department and the Office of Equity and Civil Rights.
- c. The future dates of the MCD meetings are:
 - i. February 22, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - ii. March 22, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iii. April 26, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iv. May 24, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - v. June 28, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - vi. September 27, 2023 pm
 - vii. October 25, 2023 1:00 pm
 - viii. November 22, 2023 1:00 pm
- d. Legislative activities
 - i. OECR staff has scheduled time with the Chair of the Commission to review and update Article I – Subtitle 23 of the Baltimore City Code and the Members Handbook.

IV. Approval of the minutes

- a. The November 30, 2022 minutes were approved with amendments.

V. MCD Chairperson Update

- a. Chairperson Aloma Bouma would like Commissioners' feedback on Article I – Subtitle 23 of the Baltimore City Code and Members' Handbook before the next meeting.
- b. Chairperson Aloma Bouma asked MCD Commissioners for feedback, suggestions, and recommendation on the compositional makeup of the Commission.

Action: Mr. Hugh Scoggins will send out to MCD Commissioners Article I – subtitle 23 of the Baltimore City Code and Members’ Handbook for review.

VI. Commission Subcommittees Discussion

- a. Ms. Sharonda Huffman stated that the latest by-laws were voted on and approved by the Commission on December 7, 2021.
- b. Mr. Scoggins read the list of Committees:
 - i. Accessibility
 - ii. Legislative
 - iii. Education
 - iv. Housing
 - v. Transportation
 - vi. Mental health
 - vii. Emergency preparedness and response
 - viii. Commission development
- c. Commissioners discussed their participation on the committees.
 - i. David Greenberg asked about an updated list of committees. He also suggested limiting the number of committees and increase participation.
 - ii. Michelle Smith asked to join the housing committee
 - iii. Marlene Hendler said that she is on the transportation committee
- d. Ms. Sharonda Huffman gave a report for housing.
 - i. Inclusionary Zoning Law
 - ii. Inclusionary housing
 - iii. HUD violations and affordable housing
 - iv. Disability Rights MD
 - v. Ms. Huffman will forward any updates to the Commission.
- e. Mr. JB Begue suggested a leadership workshop.
 - i. This would help committee members understand the function and structure of the committee.
 - ii. He also suggested having a leadership piece at the beginning of each monthly meeting to explain the goals for the future.
- f. Mr. Adam Levine will forward his legislative updates to Chair Aloma and Commissioners. Mr. Levine gave highlights.
 - i. HB41 – Election Law - Curbside Voting - Establishment¹
 - ii. SB110 – Public Safety – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission²
 - iii. Pending – Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council³ – within state government.

VII. Open forum

¹ [Legislation - HB0041 \(maryland.gov\)](https://mcd.baltimore.gov/legislation/HB0041)

² [Legislation - SB0110 \(maryland.gov\)](https://mcd.baltimore.gov/legislation/SB0110)

³ [Subject Legislation - Developmental Disabilities -see also- Vulnerable Adults \(maryland.gov\)](https://mcd.baltimore.gov/legislation/developmental-disabilities-council)

- a. Ms. Huffman announced Developmental Disabilities Day and will let everyone know of the date.
- b. Chairperson Bouma spoke about the MTA paratransit issues. She also spoke about the City's transportation and accessible sidewalk planning meetings. She is expecting more open meetings. Ms. Laetitia Griffin stated that all questions should be directed to Valerie LaCour or to Ms. Griffin.

V. Closing

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2023, via Zoom.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Special Assistant
Office of Equity and Civil Rights