

Office of Equity & Civil Rights
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023

Participants:

1. Adam Levine – Law Department
2. Aloma Bouma (Chair) – National Federation of the Blind
3. David Greenberg – League for People with Disabilities
4. Jack Elam – Housing Authority of Baltimore City
5. Janice Jackson – Commissioner - Consumer Advocate
6. Keina Overton – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
7. Kimberly (Michelle Grade) – Sinai Hospital
8. Martin French – Baltimore City Planning Department
9. Michael Trentadue – Accessible Tech pro
10. Rochelle Purnell – Baltimore City Health Department
11. Willie Fields - Consumer
12. Yojinde Paxton – Baltimore City Public Schools

Guests

13. Marjorie Foster – ASL Interpreter
14. Hilda Colondres – ASL Interpreter

Office of Equity and Civil Rights staff:

15. Dana P. Moore – Chief Equity Officer and Director
16. Danielle Burton – Supervisor (Community Relations Commission)
17. Lisa Kelly – Chief of Investigations
18. 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. Director Moore did a roll-call for attendance.

II. Opening Remarks

- a. Opening remarks were given by Chairperson Aloma Bouma.
- b. JB Begue has resigned from the Commission.
- c. Mr. Greenberg commented that the ASL service should only be provided when necessary.

III. Director's Report

- a. The Director's report was given by Director Moore.

- i. Mr. Hugh Scoggins resigned from the Office of Equity and Civil Rights.
 - ii. OECR hired an attorney, Ms. Viola Woolums, to lead the MCD Office division. She will be the primary contact for the Commission.
 - iii. Mr. William Fields would like more information on completing the financial disclosures. Director Moore responded that there is a contact within the Office of the Inspector General that can assist with the forms and OECR will provide that information.
 - b. The Director's report was continued by Chief Lisa Kelly.
 - i. OECR celebrated Women's History Month by highlighting the achievements of women leaders and the roles they have played in United States history. Historical facts were delivered each day via email and social media.
 - ii. The Community Relations Commission invites the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities to attend an investigative hearing with the Department of Planning. – May 3, 2023, City Hall, at 6 pm. It is open to the public and accessible via WebEx. Testimony can be submitted to Danielle Burton at Danielle.burton@baltimorecity.gov.
 1. Mr. Martin French asked for more information about the investigative hearing. Chief Kelly gave an overview of the process of conducting the hearing.
 - c. Administrative updates
 - i. OECR has hired three employees:
 1. Viola Woolums
 2. Michele Everett
 3. Megan Mishou
 - d. The following meetings are listed below:
 - i. April 26, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - ii. May 24, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iii. June 28, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iv. September 27, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - v. October 25, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - vi. November 22, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - e. Legislative updates
 - i. HB260/SB0346: *Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act.*
 - ii. HB264/SB400: *Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning*
 - iii. HB0009/SB0019: *Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses*

IV. Approval of the minutes

- a. The February 22, 2022 minutes were approved as presented.

V. MCD Chairperson Update

- a. Article I Subtitle 23-4 - Chairperson Aloma Bouma would like Commissioners' feedback on the language.
 - i. Members; associates
 1. Size, make-up and composition of the commission – 23 members
 - a. Commissioners agreed that a suggested working number is a reduction to 15-17
 - b. A quorum of 8-9
 2. Representation – 1 Mayor's and 1 City Council representative
 - a. Change 1 City Council representative. 21 members – 1 appointed from each of the 14 Council Districts.
 - b. Chair Aloma Bouma suggested an option to rotate representation of city council districts; i.e. 3 members of MCD to represent 3 city council districts or to remove the language.
 - c. Commissioners, Director Moore, and staff commented that the language should be removed.
 - ii. Commissioners discussed changing the name of the Commission.
 - iii. Committees: Chair Aloma commented that committees will be taken out of Article I.
 - iv. Agencies and associated agencies: The list of Agencies will be taken out of Article I.
 - v. Duties: There will be a reduction of duties.
 - vi. Director: The language needs to be updated.
- b. Chairperson Aloma Bouma reminded Commissioners to complete their financial disclosures.
 - i. Director Moore spoke about the financial disclosures.
 1. The Chief of Staff, Khadeja Farahmand, is keeping track of the filings.
 2. Reminders will be sent to those who have not completed the forms.
 - ii. Chairperson Aloma Bouma asked about participation in the planning of Civil Rights Week.
 1. Director Moore gave an outline and information on Civil Rights Week.
 - a. Civil Rights Week (CRW) will take place on October 20-28, 2023.
 - b. Commissioners are asked to submit recommendations for the Impact Award
 2. CRW Breakfast – October 20, 2023
 3. Baltimore Youth Day – October 21, 2023
 4. Ecumenical Civil Rights Day and prayer for the City of Baltimore – October 22, 2023.
 - a. Churches are welcome to join.

- b. Commissioners are welcome to make recommendations on which Churches would be willing to participate in the service.
- 5. Presentations and panel discussions – October 23-27, 2023.
 - a. Presentations and panel discussions will be given done by the various divisions of the OECR.
 - b. There will be a public hearing by the Mayor’s Commission on Disabilities. Director Moore would like help in identifying organizations to invite to the hearing as well as those to participate in the panel discussions between October 23 and October 27, 2023.
- 6. Happy hour vs. Gala – October 27 or October 28, 2023 –
 - a. To be determined (happy hour vs. gala)
 - b. Input and ideas from Commissioners are welcome.

VI. Commission Subcommittees Discussion

- a. Chairperson Aloma Bouma and Commissioners continued to update the Committees.
 - i. Accessibility – no updates
 - ii. Education – no updates
 - iii. Health/Mental Health – no updates
 - iv. Commission Development – no updates
 - v. Employment – no updates
 - vi. Emergency preparedness – Ms. Rochelle Purnell asked about the purpose and mission of this Committee. Mr. Greenberg referred to the Handbook and placed a copy of the language in the chat.
 - vii. Transportation – Ms. Janice Jackson spoke with Mr. Josh Wolf of MTA mobility. She gave highlights on the new MTA mobility system, which allows easier access to order all services. The website is <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/mobility/all/access>.
 - viii. Legislative – Mr. Adam Levine gave highlights on the types of bills that are in legislation as it relates to disabilities, which included service dogs and electronic ballots.

VII. Open forum

There was no discussion.

V. Closing

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2023, via Zoom.

There was no further business to discuss.

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There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond

Special Assistant

Office of Equity and Civil Rights