

**Office of Equity & Civil Rights
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2023, 2023**

Participants:

1. Adam Levine – Law Department
2. Aloma Bouma (Chair) – National Federation of the Blind
3. Crystal Bright – Mayor's Office of Emergency Management
4. David Greenberg – League for People with Disabilities
5. Glenda Curtis – Department of Housing and Community Development
6. James MacGill – Aging and Care Services
7. Janice Jackson – Commissioner - Consumer Advocate
8. Jessica Salmond – Self-Advocate
9. Kimberly (Michelle Grade) – Sinai Hospital
10. Martin French – Baltimore City Planning Department
11. Michelle “Shelly” Smith – Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management
12. Rochelle Purnell – Baltimore City Health Department
13. Willie Fields – Consumer
14. Yojinde Paxton – Baltimore City Public Schools

Office of Equity and Civil Rights staff:

15. Danielle Burton – Supervisor (Community Relations Commission)
16. Lisa Kelly – Chief of Investigations
17. Viola Woolums – Legal Counsel
18. Robin Drummond – Special Assistant

I. Welcome/Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Aloma Bouma at 1:10 pm.
- b. Chairperson Aloma requested a roll-call.

II. Opening Remarks

- a. Opening remarks were given by Chairperson Aloma Bouma.

III. Director's Report

- a. The Director's report was given by Chief Kelly.
 - i. OECR is continuing to interview for positions:
 1. Police Accountability Board
 2. Wage Commission
 3. Equity Division

- ii. CRC and MCD have increased their outreach met with 350 local residents
- iii. Next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2023 at 1:00 pm.
- iv. MCD will not meet from July-August and will resume on September 27, 2023.
- v. Legislative updates:
 - 1. Staff continued to review Article I, Subtitle 23 and they are providing feedback on the working draft before forwarding to MCD for review and then to Mayor's Office.
 - 2. Accessible concerns – Clay Hill Charter school – renovations in progress
 - 3. CMG Arena complaint of accessibility and incorrect signage
 - 4. BCIT is do an overhaul of the City's Website and looking for volunteers to test accessibility of the site. Ms. Jackson commented on the D.C. Commission's Disability Website.
- b. The following meetings are listed below:
 - i. June 28, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - ii. September 27, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iii. October 25, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iv. November 22, 2023, 1:00 pm

IV. Approval of the minutes

- a. The April 26, 2023, minutes were approved as presented.

V. MCD Chairperson Update

- a. Point of clarity: Chair Aloma wanted to clarify that staff will review the draft of Article I, Subtitle 23, provide feedback on the working draft. After review the draft will be sent back to MCD for final vote and then forwarded to Director Moore and the Mayor's Office.
- b. Chair Aloma gave an overview of the attendance policy. She would like to begin enforcing the policy and would like a list of former members. Action: Viola Woolums will send the list.
- c. Chair Aloma talked about finishing the MCD Handbook. She would like to be more informed about Civil Right Week.
- d. Guest speaker: James MacGill of Aging and Care Services. He gave an overview of the various departments and partnerships.
- e. Ms. Woolums read the list of suggested topics for future presentations.

VI. Commission Subcommittees Discussion

- a. David Greenberg and Janice Jackson talked about the need for information and a flyer that can be shared with people regarding interest in joining Commission.

Members discussed needing an electronic accessible brochure that can be distributed as well. Chair Aloma stated that the current language in Article I Subtitle 23 is being enforced and would be included along with contacts and information to join. Action: Ms. Woolums will work on a brochure that can be distributed.

- b. Jessica Salmond commented on the lack of training and education on disability rights, parents with disabilities, and Child Protective Services. Chairperson Aloma suggested doing outreach to help with public education.
- c. Subcommittee Reports
 - i. Accessibility
 - 1. Chair Aloma spoke about an article in the Baltimore Banner regarding accessibility.
 - 2. Members weighed-in on the article¹.
 - ii. Transportation – Ms. Janice Jackson gave a report on MTA transportation. There will be changes in the routes in the fall. She will send out the hearing dates and times.

VII. Open forum

V. Closing

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2023, via Zoom.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Special Assistant
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

¹ Hallie Miller, A. W. (2023, May 9). *Making Baltimore accessible for people with disabilities would cost over \$650 million*. The Baltimore Banner. <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/politics-power/social-justice/baltimore-wheelchair-accessibility-ada-compliance-7O4PCZWKTNHCFDWSFSSX7XR5M4/>