

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Notes
February 26, 2020**

Participants:

1. Aloma Bouma – National Federation of the Blind
2. Amy Butwin – Department of Human Resources
3. Brenda P. Haynes – Access Committee – Community – Mount Pleasant
4. Carol Young – Acting Chair/Access – Department of General Services
5. Crystal Bright – Emergency Preparedness - MOEM
6. Daniel Ewald - Citizen
7. David Greenberg – CEO/Host - League for People with Disabilities
8. Erin Kelly – Librarian – Enoch Pratt Free Library
9. Jack Elam – Acting Co-Chair - Housing Authority of Baltimore City
10. Janice Jackson – Consumer Advocate – Baltimore City Resident
11. Kim Stevenson – Program Coordinator - BPD
12. Marlene Hendler - Citizen
13. Martin French – BC Planning Dept
14. Raymond Nyakoe – Access - BC Dept of Recs & Parks
15. Rochelle Purnell – Deputy Chief – BCHD
16. Victor Smith – Citizen - Baltimore
17. William Brewer – Emergency Preparedness – Baltimore City Fire Department
18. Willie Fields – Consumer
19. Yojinde Paxton – Teacher - BCPS
20. Office of Equity and Civil Rights staff:
 - a. Lauren Jackson – CRC Investigator
 - b. Lisa Kelly – Supervisor
 - c. Sharonda L. Huffman – Accessibility & Compliance Coordinator
 - d. Hugh Scoggins – Program Compliance Officer II

I. Welcome/Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Carol Young.
- b. Each participant was asked to introduce themselves.

II. Presentations

- a. Director Ingram introduced Ms. M'balu Bangura as Equity Specialist
- b. Ms. Bangura invited MCOD to be a part of the Equity Strategic Plan
- c. Ms. Bangura talked about the Equity Division's self-assessment tool
- d. The ordinance is not inclusive and therefore the Equity Division is working on changes

- e. Ms. Sharonda Huffman announced that she will be attending the Site, Plan, Review Committee meetings to give her perspective from the point of disabilities

III. Director's Report

a. Administrative

- i. Director Ingram announced the new name of the office as the Office of Equity and Civil Rights.
- ii. He spoke about the restructuring of the office as the Equity division and the Civil Rights Division.
- iii. He gave an overview of the Equity Division and Article I section 39.
- iv. He also highlighted an issue of helping providers of returning citizens with resources in the community such as healthcare, medications and accessibility and how these services are communicated.
- v. Ms. Huffman referred to the Director's Report to find out who is officially on the Commission. She stated that 20 applications have been submitted so far. She spoke about the next steps.
- vi. Director Ingram gave the names of those who are approved through 2024:
 - 1. Names
 - a. Greenberg
 - b. Fields
 - c. Haynes
 - d. Salmon
 - e. Chin
 - f. Ewald
 - 2. Those present are considered in an acting capacity until they go through the process of the General Assembly.

b. Outreach

- i. January - The Office engaged in projects surrounding Martin Luther King's Birthday
 - 1. Staff read to kindergarten students at Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy
 - 2. Outreach on Pennsylvania Avenue
 - 3. Webinar on Housing Rights
- ii. Census Bureau meetings attended by Sharonda Huffman and Deputy Director Cedric McCray
- iii. Director Ingram spoke about Accessibility and if any questions reach out to Sharonda Huffman and Marlene Hendler
- iv. Director Ingram announced a training on Housing and Urban Development – in anyone is interested they can go to the Planning Website to sign up
- v. Can we Talk Series
 - 1. Staff attended the Baltimore Food Project addressing food insecurities
 - 2. March 18th – Disabilities Equity Town Hall Lakeview Towers
- vi. Human Rights Day – Annapolis in February

- vii. Office is participating in the Planning Commission's application for a parking lot and staff will be attending their meetings to address sidewalk issues
- c. Data analytics
 - i. 16 inquiries regarding accessibility
 - ii. Responded to 6 legislative bills
 - iii. Resolved 90 percent of disability complaints
 - iv. There are 18 ADA coordinators
 - v. 27 agencies are now ADA compliant Web pages
 - vi. Acting Chair Carol Young announced that two lifts have been installed in the Municipal Building. In addition, she spoke about MTA bus stop and subway signs being rebranded for mobility, audio and visually impaired.

III. Commissioner's Report and Open Forum

- a. Acting Chair Young asked if the Committees had anything specific to discuss.

Legislative Committee

- i. (Bill tracking can be found at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/> – highlights on the Bills that they are currently tracking:
- ii. House Bill 557¹ – Senate Bill 607² – *dockless scooters – motor and electric scooters - testimony was written and submitted – hearing in the Senate, March 11, 2020.*
- iii. Adam Levine is writing a support letter on Senate Bill 885² - House Bill 1118 (*Voluntary disclosure of developmental disability authorizing certain persons over the age of 18 to voluntarily disclose a diagnosed mental disability to Motor Vehicle Administration*)- *Hearing scheduled on March 6, 2020.*
- iv. Senate Bill – 705³ – House Bill 1114 (*Maryland Transit Administration – Disabled reduced fare program for Opioid transfer treatment program patients*)- *hearing March 4, 2020*
- v. Ken McLeod is writing on Senate Bill 851⁴ and House Bill 1003 (*Human Services Department of Accessibility program- transfer of telecommunications, access of Maryland telecommunication devices and distribution of accessible information for disabled individuals – from Dept of IT to Dept of Disabilities*) - *hearing in House on March 4, 2020 1pm and in the Senate on April 3, 2020 at 1pm.*
- vi. House Bill 1314 – Senate Bill 757⁵ (*Election Law Voting Systems accessibility for voters with disabilities – American Federal of the Blind, Lou Ann Blake*) – *requires a voter to use a ballot marking device that is accessible to voters with disabilities at early voting centers and at election*

¹ <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0607?ys=2020RS>

² <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0885?ys=2020RS>

³ <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0705?ys=2020RS>

⁴ <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0851?ys=2020RS>

⁵ <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0851?ys=2020RS>

day voting places to ensure that access is provided for disabilities – this will be submitted to the Equity and Civil Rights Division for review prior to sending it forward.

- b. **Action:** Ms. Huffman will look at House Bill 1118.
- c. Ms. Amy Butwin gave an overview about the Workday Computer Software System.
- d. Ms. Huffman spoke about a disability Uber program coming soon. Acting Chair Young stated that this system is in the process of being streamlined and please notify them if there are any problems.
- e. Ms. Jackson stated that next month will be a training on Fair Housing.

Next meeting will be a training scheduled for March 25, 2020.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond

ⁱ <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0607?ys=2020RS>