

Montgomery County Government  
Office of Human Rights  
21 Maryland Ave.  
Suite 330  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Meeting Minutes  
of the  
Human Rights Commission  
Of 2012

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**Human Rights Commission  
Montgomery County Office of Human Rights  
November 28, 2011  
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, Maryland 20850**

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**HRC Meeting Minutes:** January 23, 2012.

**Meeting Place:** 21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

**Commissioners Attended:** Russell Campbell (Chair) William England (vice chair), Barron Oakcrom, Betsy Jett, Jeremiah Floyd, Dr. Suresh Gupta, Stacey Ormsby, Selena Singleton, Ruth Martin and Terry Vann

**Commissioners Absent:** Doug Ryan, Sajjad Durrani and Tina Patterson.

**Guest Speaker:** Tom Manger, Chief, Montgomery County Police.

**Staff attended:** Director James Stowe, Loretta Garcia, Anis Ahmed.

**1. Call to order:**

- **Meeting:** Chairman Russell Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.
- **Agenda:** Commission passed the agenda unanimously.
- **Minutes:** Commission approved November 28, 2011 minutes unanimously with a minor correction;
- **Introduction:** Chairman Campbell introduced Tom Manger, Mont. County Police Chief to committee.

**2. Guest Speaker: Tom Manger:**

**Addressed the following:**

- Hispanic media has raised questions concerning Montgomery County Police's roles on finger prints of the non-immigrants while they are arrested. He explained that all finger prints taken from any arrested person, regardless of citizenship, immigrant and non-immigrant go straight to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Montgomery County Police department follows this procedure in compliance with the Federal Laws;
- The Police Department will neither go with the "Sanctuary County" as a policy nor will go against it. His department will simple follow the Federal Immigration laws;
- City of Takoma Park has its own government and a police department as well. Only Takoma Park police does not comply with the Federal Laws on illegal or undocumented immigrants. As a result this city became a "Sanctuary City" for the illegal or undocumented immigrants;
- County budget cuts not only affected the police department in the elimination of it's Community Outreach Program and reduce the staff force, but also started loosing citizen's confidences;
- Chief Manger hold meetings with various community and religious groups and attend every meetings where community issues are involved;
- Chief Manger mentioned that Mr. Dave Baker is assigned to act as a police representative to the Committee on Hate/Violence;
- According to the police report, Muslim and Jewish communities are affected most in hate violence related crimes in the county.

- Chief Manger has appointed a detective to deal with the elder abuses that have increased significantly in recent years. Based on police investigations, elders are mostly abused by the care givers and nurses;
- Chief Manger urged citizens and commissioners to report to him or to the police department immediately of any hate related incident and abuses to the elders;
- Chief Manger stated that the police department always complies with the federal laws if any person is stopped and found wanted for any federal crimes, , the arrested person is turn over to the federal authority within 48 hours;
- According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (in Montgomery Alabama); two hate groups currently exist in Fairfax County, Virginia;
- The Montgomery County Police Department always hires the best candidate for the police position and trained them adequately to deal with any crimes.(In addition the department works hard at employing officers who reflect the racial and cultural make up of the community.) All members of the police department have to spent one full day in the Holocaust Museum; all members of the police department are also trained on civil rights and hate crime issues;

***A questions and answer period followed Chief Manger's presentation.***

**3. *Chairman's Report: Russell Campbell:***

- Chairman stated that Montgomery County has become minority majority in population according to the recent US Census Report;
- HRC is currently working with other community groups to deal with discrimination and hate violence issues and we would like to build upon and expand these discussions;
- HRC in conjunction with the Office of Human Rights participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration;

**4. *Director's Report: James L. Stowe:***

- Thanked Chief Tom Manger for attending the HRC meeting and providing valuable information to the Commissioners;
- Bullying Symposium will be held as scheduled, February 4, 2012;
- Office of Human Rights is preparing for the Civil Rights Educational Freedom Tour;
- OHR has started the revision of Chapter 27 and updating it's regulation in conjunction with the County Attorneys office;
- OHR will organize and host a "One Stop Shop Seminar" event for the small employers (less than 15 employees) this year; planning is in progress and federal EEOC officials will be speakers at the event;
- OHR received approval for hiring two more contact employees. Mr. Craig Brieske for the investigation of multi-basis cases, while Mr. Michael Dennis will work as knowledge transfer;
- All county departments will have 2% budget cut due to revenue short fall; OHR will not be effected by any staff cut other than 2% funding cuts in operational budget;
- The Appointment Panel has concluded interviewing candidates for the HRC Commissioners position. Recommendation already sent to the County Executive Office for the appointments; Two new commissioners will be appointed very soon after the confirmation of the County Council;

**5. CRB Reports: Loretta Garcia. Compliance Manager:**

- Current caseload: 227,
- New intake: 22,
- Case accepted from intake: 10,
- Mediation: 6,
- Cases with investigators: 124,
- Management review: 36,
- Awaiting Director's final review: 2
- Post Determination: 27,

**6. Committee Reports:**

**COHV:** Terri Vann has requested commissioners to work in his place as a the Commission's representative to the COHV since he is unable to attend the meeting due to conflict of assignments; Tina attended the last COHV meeting on behalf of Terri Vann; No report to make since Director Stowe already mentioned the Bullying Symposium in his report before;

**CAB:** No Report to make;

**CPD:** No Report to make;

- **IAFCG:** Committee Chair Jeremiah Floyd reported that IAFCG has decided to send a letter to the HRC Commission Chairman requesting him to reinstitute Housing Survey in compliance with Chapter 27;
- **Legislative Committee:** No Report to make

**7. Special Committee:**

**Public Forum:** Betsy Jett

- Public Forum on Immigration issue is underway;
- Asked commissioners to bring leaders from various groups/communities to the Forum Committee;

**8. Old Business:**

- Commissioner Stacey Ormsby reported that 32 pounds of canned food collected during HRC retreat were donated to the MANNA;
- A motion brought by Commissioner Betsy Jett to organize and hold meeting at least once a year in any Regional Services Center and seconded by Commissioner William England was approved by a majority vote;
- The Commission also decided to have it's first regional meeting tentatively in March 2012;

**8. New Business:**

- Commissioner Jeremiah Floyd distributed materials regarding questions about County Government's role in selecting and approving sister city in a Foreign country where Human Rights issues are concerned very seriously;
- Commissioner Terri Vann asked Commission to collect more information before taking any decision since it seems a political issue;

- Commissioner Doug Ryan suggested that the Commission take a position since the materials (articles) clarifies the request from the resident. He also suggested that the Commission inform the County Executive and residents that the HRC will take steps since the matter raised is concerning Human Rights issues;
- Commissioner Terri Vann requested Director Stowe to ask Bruce Adams to update the HRC on this issue;

**9. *Miscellaneous:***

Commissioners Suresh Gupta mentioned that Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and Prince Georges County Executive led a 100 member trade mission to India very recently. Commissioner Gupta also participated on the team with other business and community leaders. The mission had a very successful trip and instantly secured a 60 million dollar business investment in Maryland.

**9. *Meeting adjourned:*** at 9:55pm

**10. *Next meeting:*** February 27, 2012 at 7:00pm.

**11. *Meeting Minutes:*** Notes were taken and written by Anis Ahmed, Staff Liaison; Office of Human Rights.