

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
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, Maryland 20850**

Draft HRC Meeting Minutes: Monday, July 23, 2012.

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

Commissioners Attended: Russell Campbell (chair), Barron Oakcrum, Doug Ryan, Stacey Ormsby, Selena Singleton, Ruth Martin and Stephanie Mason;

Commissioner Excused: Dr. Sajjad Durrani (for Ramadan), Matthew Murguia and Terry Vann;

Commissioners Absent: Judge William England, Betsy Jett, Dr. Jeremiah Floyd, Dr. Suresh Gupta;

Staff attended: Director James Stowe, Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager and Anis Ahmed, Staff Liaison;

1. Call to order:

- **Meeting:** Chairman Russell Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm.
- **Agenda:** Committee approved meeting Agenda;
- **Minutes:** Commission approved minutes of May 14, 2012 meeting with minor amendments.

2. Chairman's Report: Russell Campbell:

- Community discussion on Public Immigration Forum that held at the Silver Spring Civic Center was a great success.
- Representatives from various community and faith groups attended the discussion and addressed their issues;
- Commission acknowledged Commissioner Selena Singleton to take the lead in organizing the public discussion;
- Chairman sent a letter to Mr. Martin L. Grossman, Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearing proposing Human Right Commission to include in drafting Rules and Procedures;
- Chairman will response to Mr. Oliver Brown, Chairman of the Inter-Agency Fair Housing Group Committee supporting IFHCG's intention to participate the County Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearing;

3. Selena Singleton:

- Thanked Chairman Russell Campbell, Commissioners, Director James Stowe and OHR staff for arranging the discussion forum;
- As many as 18 citizens including representatives from various community and faith groups attended the event;
- Committee came up with 4 topics that will be discussed at the Public Forum:
 - Domestic Violence;
 - Language Barriers/Access
 - Immigration/Dream Act
 - Housing

- Commission has approved the expansion of sub-committee to 6 members. Sub-committee is now composed of Commissioners Selena Singleton as Chair, Doug Ryan, Barron Oakcrum, Stacey Ormsby, Stephanie Mason and Ruth Martin as member;

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

- OHR has reserved Silver Spring Civic Center facility for November 13, 2012 for hosting the Public Forum on Immigration;
- He updated about the Council Bill 19-12 on Human Rights and Civil Liberties – Displaced Services Workers to the commissioners;
- He mentioned that the Commission has nothing to do with the Council other than be aware of this bill that impact increasing case load with the Office of Human Rights.
- He stated that District of Columbia has similar kind of bill in force that impacted to increase 3 cases since 1996 out of 10,000 displace service workers;
- Currently, Maryland has only 1700 displaced service workers and may not have a big impact out of this bill if passed by the Council;
- County Council has approved the Office of Human Rights' budget as proposed by County Executive;
- Joseph Kopyto, an OHR rift staff will join the department next month.
- The average caseload of current 3 investigators take 24 months to complete;
- Loretta Garcia is currently working in drafting Chapter 27 of the County Code to emphasize enforcing complainant and respondents to go for mediation first;
- District of Columbia has similar statute and 30%-45% of the total caseload are finished through mediation;

5. Sub-Committee on Immigration Forum:

- A motion to held a meeting by the Sub-Committee was approved unanimously;
- Sub-Committee held a meeting, discussed and decided the following:
 - Get out and send save the date card/flyers to the communities;
 - Commissioners Ruth Martin, Doug Ryan and Stacey Ormsby will develop a flyer;
 - Sub-committee will have meetings periodically, first conference call will be held on July 26, 2012 and Commissioner Ruth Martin will lead the call;
 - A first full sub-committee meeting will be held on July 30, 2012,
 - Target of speakers and audience:
 - Community and Faith group leaders will be the speakers,
 - Community residents and various advisory groups will be targeted audience,
 - Purpose of forum:
 - Inform and educate the county residents;
 - Get feed back,
 - Self promotion,
 - Let County residents know that HRC is concerned about the immigration issues,
 - Inform what County, Office of Human Rights and HRC do for the residents,
 - To assess what the Commission get out of the forum discussion,
 - How County Police Department responds to the immigration issues,
 - Provide information and resources to the County residents;

6. **CRB Report:** Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager:

- o Current caseload: 158,
- o New intake: 21,
- o Case accepted from intake: 4,
- o Mediation: 6,
- o Cases with investigators: 85,
- o Management review: 21,
- o Awaiting Director's final review: 1,
- o Post Determination: 20,
- o Cases close in Fiscal Year: 196;

6. **Committee Reports:** Committee reports was put on hold due to lack of time.

7. **Meeting adjourned:** at 9:25pm

8. **Meeting Minutes:** Prepared by Anis Ahmed, Staff Liaison, OHR.

Next meeting will be held on August 27, 2012 at 7:00pm