

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**

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**Draft HRC Meeting Minutes:** Monday, May 14, 2012.

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

**Commissioners Attended:** Russell Campbell (chair) William England (vice chair), Barron Oakcrum, Betsy Jett, Jeremiah Floyd, Stacey Ormsby, Selena Singleton, Ruth Martin, Matthew Murguia and Stephanie Mason, Sajjad Durrani;

**Commissioner Excused:** None

**Commissioners Absent:** Dr. Suresh Gupta; Tina Patterson and Terry Vann.

**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 7:04 pm.
- **Agenda:** Committee approved meeting Agenda;
- **Minutes:** Commission approved minutes of April 23, 2012 meeting with minor amendments.

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

- County Fair Housing event in Gaithersburg was a successful one;
- OHR had a booth at the event with the support of HRC, OHR staff and HRC Commissioners were at the booth to disseminate information and respond to the questions of visitors. Chairman Campbell, Commissioners Mason and Jett, Director Stowe, Compliance Manager Loretta Garcia, Staff Liaison Anis Ahmed were present at the booth;
- Loretta Garcia's daughter Julie assisted with the event in costume along with her friend Chris and other high school students, Nabil Ahmed (Anis Ahmed's son) and his cousins were at the event and help visitors by distributing OHR brochures and flyers;
- HRC Commissioners attended the NAACP's last Annual Freedom Fund Banquet with a table to show their supports; attending was Commissioners England, Oakcrum, Mason, Vann, Campbell, Gupta, Floyd and Director Stowe.

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

- Thanked Chairman Campbell, Commissioners, OHR staff and their children for their assistance with the County Housing Fair event.

- He mentioned that, OHR always tries to participate in every County event despite the fact that OHR has reduced staff;
- He also appreciated the floor design and set-up after describing how this new plan helped to become more successful than all other previous events;
- He mentioned that the number of his office staff still remains the same other than volunteers and intern. Current OHR is composed of 7 staff, two contract staff and a few volunteers;

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

- Current caseload: 202,
- New intake: 20,
- Case accepted from intake: 7,
- Mediation: 7,
- Cases with investigators: 104,
- Management review: 37,
- Awaiting Director's final review: 7
- Post Determination: 20,
- Cases close in Fiscal Year: 173;
- In response to a Commissioner's question, Loretta stated that 16 cases of 2009 are still pending due to reassignments to the investigators. Her Compliance Division is trying hard to finalize the old cases on priority basis;
- Director Stowe mentioned that either he or Ms. Loretta will be able to give an up-to-date status of these old cases in a future Commission's meeting;

**4. Committee Reports:**

**COHV:** Commissioner Matthew Murguia:

- He attended at the COHV's last monthly meeting as a HRC representative.
- He updated the commissioners about Bruce Adam's report on Sister City;
- Ms. Susan Kerrin, a COHV member will draft a letter about the COHV's position on a recent Sister City issue;
- Discussion held whether HRC will take any stand on the Sister City issue. Commission decided not to take any stand other than stay on civilities;
- Loretta Garcia mentioned that neither HRC nor COHV can not take any side without the approval of the County Executive;
- Commissioners came into a conclusion after discussion that the County will be benefited from Dream Act if it is passed by the US Congress;

**Community Action Board:** William England:

- CAB holds it meeting on every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month;
- He mentioned that the CAB is sponsoring a financial education forum for the Middle School students;
- CAB will hold it's Annual Award ceremony at the Vis-Art, Rockville Town Center, Maryland on June 22, 2012;

**Commission on People with Disability:** Betsy Jett:

- No report;

**Committee on Fair Housing: Dr. Jeremiah Floyd:**

- No report ;

**Case Review Board: Loretta Garcia, Compliance Manager:**

- Commissioners Stephanie Mason and Matthew Murguia have received training on Case Reviews.

**5. Old Business:**

**Forum on Immigration: Stacy Ormsby**

- Commission has formed a 3 member Special Committee for the forum. Among the Committee members are;
  - Commissioner Ruth Martin;
  - Commissioner Betsy Jett; and
  - Commissioner Selena Singleton;
- The Public Forum on Immigration issues will be held on June 25, 2012 at the Civic Center, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 at 7:00pm;
- OHR has reserved a hall room of the Silver Spring Civic Center for the upcoming public forum, Agenda and Program for the forum is yet to be made;
- Subject matter experts will be invited to speak at the event after finalization of the Agenda;
- Speakers will be allowed to address in brief as this event will be a public forum and citizens will be encouraged to address their concerns; The Commission will hear the citizen's remarks only;
- Commission will request the Office of Community Partnership to disseminate information about this event to the County residents;

**5. New Business:**

- Director Stowe requested the Commissioners to have photographs taken for the Commission's picture display;
- He also requested for script writers for writing a Complaint Process Script for the OHR's website;
- Commissioners Judge William England, Stacey Ormsby, Barron Oakcrum, Terri Vann and Betsy Jett have agreed to assist with the proposed script.

**6. Meeting adjourned:** at 8:55pm

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

**Next meeting will be held on June 25, 2012 at 7:00pm**

**at the**

**Civic Center, 1 Veteran Plaza, Silver Spring, MD 20910**