***Mission Statement:*** ***The Montgomery County Committee Against Hate/Violence works to eradicate acts of hate and intimidation through community education, advocacy, collaboration, and legislation.***

**Meeting Date and Time**: **WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2024; 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Virtual-only meeting

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82447362082**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82447362082) **Meeting ID: 824 4736 2082**

**Phone Number: 301-715-8592**

1. List of attendees:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Voting Members | Non-voting members |
| Present | Pablo Blank, Chair  Sanjeet Sam Dey, Secretary  Richard Allen  Tony Jia  Susan Stolov  Lisa Taylor  Stephany Troyer  Sheik Hassan  Craig Simon | Anis Ahmed, Office of Human Rights  Rachel Breslin, Human Rights Commission  Kate Chance, Office of Community Partnerships  Wesley Darden, Office of County Council member Mink  Lt. Jeff Innocenti, MCPD  Kimberly Jones, Motgomery College  Janita Love, MCPS |
| Absent | Gabrielle Zwi, Vice-Chair  Leah Michaels  Vanessa Morris  Maria Herrera  Femi Richards | Selena Singleton, County Council  James Stowe, Director OHR  Loretta Garcia, Office of Human Rights |

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.
2. Sue moved for the July meeting agenda to be adopted. Lisa seconded. The agenda was adopted.
3. Richard moved for the June minutes to be approved. Stephanie seconded. Minutes from June 2024 were approved.
4. Analysis of pending action items from previous meetings.
   1. Pending issues.
      1. Brainstorm to run additional activities – second session.
      2. Project 311
      3. Training on how the Judiciary system process Hate claims.
   2. Items i and ii were postponed for a later meeting
   3. Item iii. Members discussed the need to learn more about the judiciary process after the Police investigate a hate incident. Committee leadership will invite the State Attorney to attend one of our meetings in October/November/December.
   4. A member requested to add to the list of pending action a request from a Church to receive a payment from the Partnership Fund. Committee leadership will address this issue with OHR. If not resolved during the next weeks, we will add it as a pending action item.

Action items:

* + - * 1. Schedule participation of State Attorney on a CAVH meeting.
        2. Resolve Church request for payment from Partnership Fund.

1. MCPD report.

Old businesses:

* 1. MCPD provided additional information on the two cases pending from previous discussions. Members discussed the need to meet with State Attorney to learn about the judiciary process, what residents can do when they are not satisfied with Police/Judiciary decisions, etc.
  2. MCPD submitted the June 2024 report on the first day of July. Committee members thanked MCPD for this fast action that helps members to attend better prepared for the monthly meeting.

New businesses:

1. Members discussed different incidents included in the June 2024 Hate incident report. The report includes a lower number of cases because schools closed for vacations in early June.

**Next actions:**

* + - 1. No pending action items for MCPD (other than continue sending the monthly report within the first three days of the following month.)

1. Friendship Picnic
   1. Date is Sunday 9/15.

**Next actions:**

* 1. OHR met with the MoCo Office of Shared Services to advance contracting vendors. OHR will meet again with then this week for follow up actions. After that second meeting, OHR will meet with CAVH to provide a status update and resolve any pending issues.
  2. There is a new staff member at Park Services. They may not have the institutional knowledge from previous experiences. OHR and CAVH will schedule a meeting with Parks to go over the Picnic details. Stephany, Sue, and Pablo will join the on-site meeting with Parks and OHR.
  3. Richard will draft the Picnic’s “Run of the Show” including a presentation of the Committee, the reasons for the Picnic, and introductions of guest speakers (to be confirmed)
  4. Lisa shared with Pablo the Press Release we used last year. After updating it, Pablo will share it with OHR for County Comms to help us spread the word.
  5. Anis will update the date on the flyers we used last year and share the version with all Committee members for a final review. Flyers should be final by July 31, 2024.
  6. OHR will send VIP invitations to County Executive, County Council members, State’s delegates and senators serving County residents, US Representatives serving County residents, and Maryland US Senators. Invitations should be issued by July 31, 2024.
  7. Anis will contact the Department of Transportation to secure buses for the event. (buses cover the distance from additional parking lots to the Wheaton Regional Park.)
  8. Anis will share the document he uses to plan the Picnic, including the TO DO list, contact information, etc. for Committee members to offer updates and support as needed.
  9. Rachel/Pablo met and are working on the survey to deliver to Picnic attendees. After sharing the final version with all Committee members for feedback, Pablo will send the proposed survey to OHR to procure support from County’s IT departments.
  10. Richard/Sue/Pablo to meet to discuss and adopt one of these ideas to increase Picnic impact on our community.
      1. Bingo for people to identify members who eat a different food, who wear differently, etc. and promote dialogue.
      2. Karaoke for kids
      3. Speed dating to promote dialogue. For example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfHV4-N2LxQ&t=69s>
      4. Reserve a location in the Park where people can go to meet other people
      5. Conduct a survey about the event, to learn why people attend and how to improve the experience.

1. MCPS
   1. Janita Love, Coordinator for Hate/Bias within the MCPS’s Equity Initiative Unit joined the meeting. Janita explained her scope of work is on policies, procedures, and training, but it does not include compliance issues, that remain under the scope of Director of Welfare and Compliance, Gregory Edmonson.
   2. Members discussed with Janita previous conversations with MCPS, letters submitted to MCPS, and Committee’s points of interes.

**Next actions:**

* + - 1. Janita will coordinate a meeting between MCPS and CAVH to address:

Similarities and differences between MCPS Bullying and Hate incident reports.

The need for MCPS to consider family’s satisfaction at the time of closing a case.

Suggested edits to the Bullying report (for example, not asking the victim why the perpetrator attacked him/her/they)

How MCPS and CAVH can partner to address Hate/Violence in MCPS facilities.

* + - 1. CAVH will send a welcome letter to the new MCPS Superintendent.
      2. OHR Director Stowe will coordinate a meeting between CAVH members and the new Superintendent.

1. County Executive
   1. Committee members discussed the request from neighbors who attended a rally to support Palestine and were attacked by other County residents supporting Israel. In fact, pro-Palestine residents requested the Committee to intercede with the County Executive for him to meet with them and issue a support statement. Committee members expressed their doubts about the Committee role on this action.

**Next actions:**

* + - * 1. CAVH will work with OHR to schedule a meeting with the County Executive to learn from him what the role of the Committee should be on those types of incidents, and what the CE expectation is about our actions.

1. Membership status
   1. Committee members discussed two of the members have failed to join the last three meetings. In fact, one of them already presented her resignation. Additionally, there are only 14 members in the Committee member. Thus, there may be three vacant positions in the Committee.

**Next actions:**

* + - * 1. OHR office will revise attendance on approved Committee minutes and will work with the appropriate County department to replace those members, following the procedure.

1. Richard moved to adjourn the meeting, and Lisa seconded. Members voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm.