***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, September 11; 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 & County residents |
| Present | Pablo Blank, ChairGabrielle Zwi, Vice-ChairSanjeet Sam Dey, SecretaryRichard AllenMaria HerreraSheik HassanFemi RichardsSusan StolovLisa TaylorCraig Simon | Anis Ahmed, Office of Human RightsJames Stowe, Director OHRLoretta Garcia, Office of Human RightsRachel Breslin, Human Rights CommissionKate Chance, Office of Community PartnershipsLt. Jeff Innocenti, MCPDKimberly Jones, Montgomery CollegeJanita Love, MCPSSamira Hussein, Family Service Worker at MCPSKim Hodges, County Contractor (to play stage management assistant role during the Picnic.) |
| Absent | Leah MichaelsVanessa MorrisTony JiaStephany Troyer | Selena Singleton, County CouncilWesley Darden, Office of County Council member MinkCapt. Jordan Satisnky, MCPD |

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.
2. Richard moved a motion to approve the September 2024 agenda. Craig seconded the motion. All members voted affirmatory. The September 2024 agenda was adopted.
3. Craig moved a motion to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. Richard seconded the motion. All members voted affirmatory. The August 2024 minute was approved.
4. Members remembered their personal experiences with 9/11, and the meaning for them of the date. Members of the Muslim community remembered how the attack triggered years of bias and hate against them in the US and abroad.

Members expressed their gratitude for serving together as members of the Committee, that fights against hate, the primary force that moved the 9/11 attack.

1. Friendship Picnic
	1. A member of the Muslim community attended the meeting to express concerns about the chosen date, September 15, 2025, as it coincides with a holiday for Muslims. Different Committee members expressed the issue was previously addressed, appropriately analyzed, and consulted with different members of the Muslim Community. A Committee member contacted two Muslim leaders who confirmed that the date September 15, 2024, for the picnic would not be a problem because it is not an official holiday and Muslims, especially in the US, observe only the two official Muslim holidays – Eid-ul fitr and Eid-ul adha; and the committee can continue with its plan for the picnic.

Following discussion, the Committee members decided to keep the chosen date and will continue to be mindful of conflicts.

Committee members expressed their sadness for not finding Muslim voices expressing a conflict during the consultation process, and apologized for upsetting those Community members. It is in the full spirit and practice of this Committee to respect Observance Days of all County residents.

* 1. Committee members reviewed the status of the Picnic planning. Everything seems to be in order and ready to host a wonderful 10th Friendship Picnic. Final comments were made about:
		1. Post signage with food allergies details.
		2. To facilitate food explanation at the registration table, we may need to have pictures of the meals each vendor will serve.
		3. OHR will print and have ready 20 MCPS’ SSL forms to sign for students volunteering at the Picnic.
		4. At the registration table we will assume honest intends when a person requires extra food tickets for party members who are not present at the table.
		5. Parking passes will be allocated for Committee members, elected officials, OHR staff, OHR other invitees, honorees, and volunteers.
1. There was no time to address the other issues on the agenda -MCPD report, MCPS meeting-, that will be addressed in the coming October meeting.
2. Sam moved to adjourn the meeting, and Richard seconded. Members voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:09pm.