

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Monday, June 30, 2025**

Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting was held at 7 pm. It was a virtual meeting.

Commissioners Present: William England, Prof. Okianer Christian Dark, Alejandro Becerra, Dr. Candace Groudine, Dr. Suresh Gupta, Suzanne Lofhjelm, Terri Vann, and Nina Weisbroth.

Commissioners Absent: Janice Freeman, Rachel Breslin, Dr. Rahul Jindal and Stephanie Mason.

Staff Attended: Director James Stowe, Compliance Manager Loretta Garcia, and Staff Liaison Anis Ahmed.

Chair: Called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Approval:

- Agenda for May 19, 2025, meeting was approved by a common consent.
- May 19, 2025, minutes was approved by a common consent.

Presentations: The Status of the Impact of ICE activities in the community

Speakers:

1. Maxwell Uy, Sheriff, Montgomery County, Maryland.
2. David McBain, Assistant Chief of Police, Montgomery County, Maryland
3. Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, Chief of Organizing and Leadership, CASA, Maryland
4. Ben Stevenson, Director, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Montgomery County, Maryland.
5. Devang Shah, Attorney, Shah and Kishore, Maryland.
 - The speakers were introduced by Director James Stowe.
 - Speakers gave their presentations.
 - Discussion followed the presentation.

Chairman's Report:

- Chairman William England and Director James Stowe gave reports on the following events:
- African American Living Legend Award Ceremony, which was held on Friday, June 20, 2025.
- A day long Juneteenth celebration which was held on Saturday, June 21,
- Special HRC sponsored event involving the Howard University Debate Team on the "Significance or Symbolic Importance of Juneteenth"
- Both events were held at the Black Rock Center for Arts, Germantown, Maryland.

Committee Reports:

- Chair England and Vice Chair Dark: 2025 Work Plan: Remembrance and Reconciliation Month Activities.
 - Submission of report was put on hold for the next HRC's monthly meeting.
- Commission Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners, OHR Director and staff mourn the passing of Ex. Commissioner Jeremiah Floyd's wife.
- Emory Grove Displacement Study Committee's first meeting will be held on July 1, 2025.
- Case status update was presented, year ending report will be presented at next commission meeting
- Personnel hiring update with two current staff vacancies, update at next Commission Meeting

Standing Committee Reports and Updates: (Only if there is an update):

- Interagency Fair Housing Coordinating Group Committee (IAFHGC), (To Be Appointed).
- Human Trafficking: Commissioner Janice Freeman. No report
- Faith Advisory Group: Commissioner Terry Vann.
- Community Action Board: Commissioner Suresh K. Gupta (nominated): No report
- Committee Against Hate Violence: Commissioner Rachael Breslin. No Report.
- Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission: Commissioner Okianer Christian Dark.
- Persons with Disabilities: Commissioner Candace Groudine.

Announcements:

- Virtual Employment Workshop/Webinar: TBA.
- 57th Anniversary of the Montgomery County Open Housing Act Proclamation: TBA.
- The tentative date for the Montgomery County Friendship Picnic is Sunday, September 14, 2025.

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.