

**State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
December 12, 2017 – 10am
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: DeWayne Wickham; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick; Roberto N. Allen, Esq.

Commissioners Present by Phone: Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA; Laura Esquivel

Management Present: Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director; Cleveland L. Horton II, Deputy Director; Nicolette Young, Assistant Director; Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel

Staff Present: S. Spencer Dove, Executive Associate

ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTION
Call to Order	1. Meeting called to order at 10:06am. Commissioner Wickham serving as Chairperson.	None.
Approval of Minutes	1. Motion to approve both October and November, 2017 minutes by Commissioner Esquivel and seconded by Commissioner Allen; motion passes without opposition	Minutes approved.
Chairperson’s Report	1. None.	None.
Executive Director’s Report	1. Met with the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities a few weeks ago alongside the Deputy Director. Previously met with the statewide disabilities group, and was invited by Baltimore County to start a relationship. 2. Spoke at the 4th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Diversity & Inclusion Remembrance Program, sponsored by the Baltimore Federal Executive Board. This year’s theme is “Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd-A Road to the Dream of our Beloved Community”. 3. Education & Outreach Director Tara Taylor accompanying the Superintendent of State Police at today’s COVE meeting to facilitate an introduction between the Superintendent and the organization. 4. In response to a request by the Commissioners last month, MCCR did see an increase in the number of complaints being filed with the agency during the 4 th quarter of 2016 similar to the spike in reports of incidents of hate and bias during the same period. Whether or not the hate/bias incidents and an increase in the number of complaints filed with the agency cannot be determined. 5. MCCR employees took the opportunity to volunteer at the Maryland Public Television’s Pledge Drive, manning the phones to collect support.	None.
Deputy Director’s Report	1. Reviewed submitted written report. 2. 6 new investigators have been brought in recently. They are being trained and on-boarded in order to assist with the pending case inventory. 3. Investigators attended a 3-day training in Philadelphia on fair housing training provided by HUD professionals.	None.

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	<p>4. Save-The-Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 6 to 8pm at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum on African American History will be our Gala Evening celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and MCCR’s 91st year in service to the State.</p> <p>5. Continue to enjoy a great relationship with the EEOC and HUD, our federal partners. Employment complaints are up and retaliation is the top selected base, which is concerning and a matter MCCR is watching closely. Fair housing complaints are down nationwide, and HUD is pushing for more complaints to be filed across the nation.</p>	
Assistant Director’s Report	<p>1. Reviewed submitted written report.</p> <p>2. Currently recruiting for the vacant Office Secretary III position in our Intake Unit.</p>	None.
General Counsel’s Report	<p>1. Reviewed submitted written report.</p>	None.
Old Business	<p>1. None.</p>	None.
New Business	<p>1. Commissioners are welcome to join the annual Winterfest this Thursday at 12:15pm.</p>	None.
Good & Welfare	<p>1. None.</p>	None.
Adjournment	<p>1. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Marwick; motion passes without opposition.</p>	Adjourned.