

**State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
January 12, 2016 – 10am
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Shawn M. Wright, Esq., Chairperson; DeWayne Wickham; Laura Esquivel
Present via Conference Call: Robert L. Baum, Esq., Vice Chairperson; Gary Norman, Esq.; Naima Said; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick
Management Present: Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director; Nicolette Young, Assistant Director; Glendora Hughes, General Counsel
Staff Present: S. Spencer Dove, Executive Associate; Tara Taylor, Director of Education & Outreach; Melissia Dorsey, Investigation Unit Supervisor; Awilda Pena, Investigation Unit Supervisor; Alesha Bell, Intake Unit Supervisor

ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTION
Call to Order	1. Meeting called to order at 10:07am	None
Approval of Minutes	1. Move to adopt the November, 2015 minutes – Chairperson Wright and Commissioner Wickham – approved unanimously. 2. Move to adopt the December, 2015 minutes – Commissioner Wickham and Commissioner Norman – approved unanimously.	Minutes adopted
Chairperson’s Report	1. Commissioner Norman Gelman submitted his resignation from the Commission to the Governor. On behalf of the entire Commission, we thank him for his years of leadership and service, especially for his time as Chair of the Commission. Will remain in contact with the Governor’s Appointments Office to find a suitable and timely replacement. 2. Chair encourages all Commissioners to attend Human Rights Day in Annapolis on February 9, 2016, which is the same time as the usual monthly Commission meeting. Will work with Commissioners to secure commitments for February 9, and the Commission will make adjustments/announcements about a formal Commission meeting when details are confirmed. 3. Should continue discussion on ways to reignite engagement in the Commission. Also would like to explore a Commissioner retreat.	None
Executive Director’s Report	1. Continue to work with partners and stakeholders in Baltimore City and around Maryland in response to Freddie Gray trials. Will continue to review information and disseminate it to the public to further understanding and expectations. Hosting a meeting Thursday again with stakeholders to discuss trials and grassroots programs around the city, among other important topics. 2. Thankful for the staff and their continued support in filling programmatic holes left with the vacating of the Deputy Director position. The agency is running smoothly, especially thanks to the Investigative Supervisors who have a direct role in filling Deputy Director duties. 3. Working directly with leadership and staff to make sure that we are offering the best possible service to the public.	None

**State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
January 12, 2016 – 10am
MINUTES**

	4. February 9, 2016 – MAHRA Human Rights Day in Annapolis is scheduled.	
Assistant Director's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewed submitted written report. Agency's fiscal health is great. Projections are that we are to end the fiscal year in the black. 2. No expectation that agency will have to return money mid-year. 3. Received Governor's FY2017 allowance. Reviewing it and working to meet the target. 4. Looking to post recruitment for positions in agency by the end of the week. 	None
General Counsel's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Met with Governor's Office regarding legislative liaisons for introductions, reviewing protocol for logging agency positions, etc. 2. House and Senate sponsors have come forward to introduce legislation amending and updating our public accommodations sections of the law. 3. Monitoring and identifying legislation that may be of interest to us. Agency has received inquiries on fiscal impact relating to two bills – making state websites accessible in other languages and adding "military status" as a protected class in housing. Legislative phone calls will begin this Thursday as per protocols adopted last year. 	None
Education & Outreach Director's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working on a number of projects for the spring and summer. Also have a new intern that has joined our agency. 2. Partnering with local schools to recruit interns and others who want to support and share in the outreach work of the Commission. 3. In lieu of a fair housing symposium for April of this year, the Commission will continue with the <i>Fair Housing Five</i> book discussion project. 	None
Old Business	1. None.	None
New Business	1. None.	None
Good & Welfare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioner Said: with the ICE raids around the state, it has induced intense fear in the community and interrupted their way of life – worship, work, recreation, normal living affairs. 2. Happy New Year and hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. On to a wonderful and productive 2016. 	None
Adjournment	1. Commissioner Esquivel motioned - Meeting adjourned at 11:32am.	Adjourned