

State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
March 8, 2016 – 10am
MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Shawn M. Wright, Esq., Chairperson; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick DeWayne Wickham;

Present via Conference Call: Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA; Gary Norman

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; Melissa 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 10:04am.	None.
Approval of Minutes	1. Motion to accept January, 2016, minutes without revisions made by Commissioner Marwick, seconded by Commissioner Wickham; motion carries without opposition.	Accepted.
Chairperson's Report	1. Deferred	None.
Executive Director's Report	1. Over the previous 30 days, ED attended many community events with Education & Outreach Unit Director Tara Taylor. 2. With respect to the ICE Raids that began January, 2016: Commissioner Said raised concern over how most vulnerable Marylanders are being treated. MCCR hosted a roundtable with a number of community stakeholders in February, 2016, to talk about various groups involvement and services provided. In excess of 30 attendees ranging from professionals to students from Baltimore City public schools attended. Action items resulting from roundtable are as follows: facilitating more open dialog between parole/probation officers and other government agencies so that the focus is on authority mandate and protection; crafting a letter from MCCR to legislators asking for support to request moratorium on raids; other items will be included in circulated minutes. 3. ED and Ms. Taylor sat in on training for command staff for Anne Arundel County Police on implicit bias. MCCR very appreciative of the invitation. Opportunity for MCCR to see first-hand employment of implicit bias training module done out of the University of Florida. MCCR reached out to Baltimore City to request an invitation to similar training to be conducted. MCCR also invited Chief of ACCO Police to join MCCR Commission meeting to discuss why this training was conducted; similar invitation will be sent to Baltimore City Police Commissioner Davis.	None.
Assistant Director's Report	1. Reviewed submitted written report. 2. Completed Civil Rights Officer II recruitment. Department of Budget & Management reviewed list of applicants and sent over a list of candidates to interview last week. Assistant Directors would like to	None.

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	<p>schedule interviews in the next few weeks, with the goal of the CROII starting mid-April.</p> <p>3. Annual Financial Disclosure for Commissioners due to the state. Please refer to email previously forwarded to you.</p>	
General Counsel's Report	<p>1. General Counsel introduced MCCR Intern who is with us for the semester, Patience Besong from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.</p> <p>2. Reviewed submitted written reports.</p> <p>3. Discussed the status of the bill amending MCCR's public accommodations section of the law.</p> <p>4. Spoke with Delegate Simonaire regarding her legislation to lower the jurisdictional threshold for receipt of sexual harassment complaints. Expressed support for the concept, but strong concerns with the construction of the bill.</p>	None.
Education & Outreach Director's Report	<p>1. Partnering with University of Baltimore's Office of Academic Innovation and College of Public Affairs to offer a year-long Civil Rights Scholars program. Open to public and private sector employees. Goal is to engage, educate, and support employees to bring diversity-based initiatives to their workplaces. Would be an ongoing professional development program for enrollees, and it would be for the benefit of their employer.</p> <p>2. Jamel Sanders, undergraduate at University of Baltimore majoring in criminal justice, has been on for some time now as an intern and has been incredibly helpful.</p>	None.
Old Business	1. None.	None.
New Business	<p>1. Entered Executive Session at 11:29am.</p> <p>2. Concluded Executive Session at 11:50am.</p>	None.
Good & Welfare	1. None.	None.
Adjournment	1. Meeting adjourned at 11:52am.	Adjourned.