

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2010

The meeting of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations was called to order on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 10:05 a.m., in Baltimore, Maryland.

- PRESENT** Norman Gelman, John Hermina, Doris Cowl and Joyce De Laurentis.
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** The minutes of the July meeting were accepted as written.
- CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** Chairperson Gelman informed Commissioners that he has communicated with Jessica Berry regarding scheduling a meeting with the new Chairperson of the EEOC and have not yet heard back.
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** The Executive Director had nothing to report this month.
- MAHRA** The Maryland Association of Human Rights Agencies is in the process of scheduling a Commissioners training conference. The association is requesting Commissioners' input as to what type of training they would like to have. If any Commissioner has any recommendations, please send emails to the Executive Director.
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Commissioners received copies of the Case Processing Report (See attached).
- EEOC & HUD Conferences** The Deputy Director reported that he attended the EEOC and HUD Conferences. There was nothing remarkable to report.
- EEOC Contract** The Deputy Director informed Commissioners that the 14% cut received by MCHR two years ago was unusual. This cut came out of nowhere and it was nine(9) months into MCHR's fiscal year and six (6) months into EEOC's fiscal year. This cut made a dramatic impact. Usually EEOC informs agencies a year ahead of time what the contract will be for the next year. If an agency finishes the contract early, an agency may be able to modify the contract upward. If an agency is behind, the

HUD Contract contract is reduced. An agency can do more work than the contract calls for , but there is no guarantee an agency will receive payment for the work. An agency has to fail to meet the contract to produce the funds to pay for an increase in a contract.

MCHR has been very good in predicting, based on the staff level, how many cases will be completed.

Complaints filed on the Website The Deputy Director stated that in August there were 58 inquiries; of that number six (6) have been authorized as complaints. Fifteen (15) have been formatted and sent out to the individuals, but have not been returned. Twenty-five (25) of the 58 have been aborted as inappropriate for the agency. Twelve (12) are still pending in Intake because the intake process has not been completed and the form has not been sent out or returned.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Commissioners received copies of the Monthly Budget Status Report provided by the Assistant Director (See attached). The Executive Director reported that the agency is on target with spending.

Budget

The Executive Director informed Commissioners that MCHR had to submit its budget for Fiscal Year 2012 for consideration by the General Assembly in January 2011. This budget will go into effect July 1, 2011. This budget process started last May. MCHR submitted its proposal in September. MCHR will probably not hear anything regarding the proposal until after the General Election in November. Unfunded positions were included in the proposal. Unfunded positions are positions that MCHR has a pin for, but no funding for this fiscal year. These positions are still in next year's budget with no funding.

The Executive Director stated that there was a subtraction from this year's budget for combining functions of small agencies. This was not directed specifically at MCHR; this was a general figure. What this means is that some agencies have gotten so small that they did not need full time, and probably not even half time, people to perform certain functions. There would be a centralized location for performing those duties (finance, personnel) for small agencies. The funds have been taken out already as state savings, but they have not come up with any plan as to how to get this done.

Information Technology Unit

The Information Technology Manager reported that there were 8,118 hits and 1,050 visitors to the Spanish website.

There were a total of 10,183 visitors and 136,864 hits to the regular website. There were 62 complaints filed; 52 employments, 10 public accommodations and no housing or commercial non-discrimination.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Commissioners received copies of the General Counsel's Report and the Training/Education Campaign (See attached).

Legislation

The General Counsel informed Commissioners that there was a deadline to file departmental legislation and MCHR re-filed the name change bill. The General Counsel requested that the bill be filed on the House side first before the Senate side.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Barbara Wilson