

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2006

The meeting of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations was called to order on Tuesday, January 11, 2006 at 10:15 a.m., in Baltimore, Maryland.

Present Thomas Owen, Norman Gelman and John Hermina .

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES The Executive Director would like the last sentence of the third paragraph on page three be stricken from the minutes. The minutes of the December meeting were accepted with the above-mentioned change.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Immigrant Study Commissioners received copies of the Chairperson's Report (See attached). Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that he attended the meeting of the Hispanic Affairs Commission, with Commissioner Gelman and the Executive Director. The purpose of attending was to hear the presentation of Dr. Jo Anne Schneider of the George Washington University Institute of Public Policy regarding the proposed Hispanic Immigrant Study. Dr. Royce Hanson of the Institute was also in attendance. The presentation was well received.

Martin L. King, Jr. Breakfast Chairperson Owen inquired as to when the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast was being held. The Executive Director stated that it is this coming Monday, January 16, 2006 at 7:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Budget Hearings Commissioners received copies of the Executive Director's Report (See attached).
The Executive Director informed Commissioners that the Senate Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. and the House Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, February 6, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

The Executive Director also informed Commissioners that he attended the 40th Anniversary Reception for the Maryland Commission for Women.

**DEPUTY
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Commissioners received copies of the Deputy Director's Report (See attached). The Deputy Director was not present during this meeting. The Executive Director informed Commissioners that MCHR is on track in reference to completing the EEOC and HUD contracts.

**ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
2007 Budget**

Commissioners received copies of the Assistant Director's Report (See attached).

The Assistant Director informed Commissioners that MCHR is waiting for the recommendations from the Legislative Budget Analyst and anticipate no problems.

Chairperson Owen inquired as to who would be attending the Budget Hearings. The Executive Director stated that typically the Assistant Director, the Deputy Director and the Executive Director attend the hearings. All Commissioners are invited to attend the hearings.

Information Technology
Unit

The Information Technology Manager informed Commissioners that the new server would be installed January 11, 2006. The installation would take about three (3) workdays. There will be no interruption to services at the agency.

**GENERAL
COUNSEL'S
REPORT**

Commissioners received copies of the General Counsel's Report (See attached).

**Governor's Equal Pay
Commission**

The General Counsel discussed some of the particulars and mandates of the Governor's Equal Pay Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Revisit Tasks of the Former Community Outreach/Education Unit. The Executive Director requested that this matter be tabled until next month's meeting.

Commissioner Gelman requested that Bobette Watts attend next month's meeting to talk about her role as Legislative Liaison for the Commission. Ms. Watts will be present.

Commissioner Gelman inquired as to how Ms. Watts is able to balance the legislative duties with other duties. The Executive Director stated that it depends on how much activity this agency will be involved in during the legislative session.

The General Counsel informed Commissioners that it is a group effort; it is not totally Ms. Watts responsibility. The Executive Director, the General Counsel and the Executive Associate will share these responsibilities, in an effort not to lock down Ms. Watts.

Chairperson Owen stated that he realizes that MCHR cannot do all of the duties of the Community Outreach/Education unit; however, the

Commissioners would like to know which of the contacts MCHR is able to maintain and think about how to make do with what MCHR has in order to continue as many of the efforts of the COEU as possible.

Chairperson Owen reminded the Commission that during last month's meeting Commissioner Dezmon requested that someone come to the meeting to discuss the plight of the migratory workers. The Executive Director stated that the Migratory Workers Commission is another Commission under the leadership of Carmen Pratt. Ms. Pratt has been invited to come to the Commission. Ms. Pratt stated that there is not much going on with the Commission at this point and that maybe by March or April a staff person would be hired and could give a better update in a couple months after that.

Commission meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Barbara Wilson