

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2011

The meeting of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations was called to order on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 10:05 a.m., in Baltimore, Maryland.

**PRESENT** Norman Gelman, Sambhu Banik, Doris Cowl, Kanan Hudhud, Gary Norman and Shawn Wright.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** The minutes of the May meeting were accepted with the following changes: page 1 paragraph 5 line 6 the word “that” should be whether; page 2 paragraph 2 line 2 “LaTasha” should be Natasha; page 3 paragraph 4 line 5 the following words should be added after the word “willing” – to participate in the; same line next sentence delete The result of capitalize the word “Resolutions” and change has to have. Same paragraph line 16, fourth word should be tries.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT** Commissioners received copies of the Chairperson’s Report (See attached).

Request for Meeting form Secretary Foster Chairperson Gelman stated that as promised last month after the discussion about whether to meet with Secretary Foster of the Department of Budget and Management there was further discussion with senior staff and it was decided not to seek that meeting. Chairperson Gelman called Secretary Foster’s Assistant, Natasha Herbert, and explained that MCHR was prepared to forego that meeting although MCHR may come back to her on bended knee asking that the meeting be reinstated at some future date. Chairperson Gelman also informed the Governor’s General Counsel that MCHR was foregoing that meeting.

EEOC Budget Chairperson Gelman stated that there is a controversy in Congress about whether to raise the debt limit and the question of budget cuts is tied up with that and the expectation appears to be that there may be a continuing resolution on the budget.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** The Executive Director did not have a written report this month.

Name Change  
Bill

The Executive Director stated that the day after last month's meeting he noticed that the Governor would be signing the Name Change bill. The Executive Director attended the bill signing. The name change goes into effect on October 1, 2011. The agency's new name will be the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. Agency executive staff have discussed a to do list of items that need to be changed.

Chairperson Gelman would like MCHR staff to think about without additional authority under the law, what MCHR ought to be doing as the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. The agency does not lack topics and/or issues for conducting hearings; the problem is resources.

Commissioner Norman requested an outline detailing what is involved in conducting investigatory hearings. The Executive Director will prepare this outline and present it during next month's meeting.

Justice Department  
Community Relations

Chairperson Gelman stated that the Deputy Director has meet with the Regional Director for Community Relations of the Justice Department. The Regional Director will come to the Commission for the September meeting to discuss the function of Community Relations. The role of this agency is to go out where there are controversies in the civil rights area and to help mediate. This is done in concert with local and state organizations and ad hoc groups that are put together with very small staff. We will schedule this presentation for the September meeting.

There will be a Commission meeting in July; there will not be a meeting in August and we will return to monthly meetings in September.

**DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

The Deputy Director was not present for the meeting today. The Executive Director reported that the Fact Finding experiment is still going very well. MCHR has stopped taking complaints over the internet because most of the complaints never turned into a perfected complaint. MCHR is trying to think of a way to get an electronic oath. MCHR would have to obtain authorization from the legislature to do an electronic oath and would also have to have a system for identification that would also not compromise the security of MCHR's server.

**ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

The Assistant Director reported that MCHR is 2 weeks away from the end of this fiscal year. Administrative Services have mapped out closing out the year. MCHR will close the year in the black.

2012 Budget

MCHR is waiting for the Budget Analyst to send a copy of the 2012 appropriations or budget to us. The budget appropriation should be the same as it was when it came out of the budget committee.

2013 Budget

The Department of Budget and Management has started training for the

2013 budget preparations.

**Recruitment for the New Investigator** The recruitment for the new investigator has started. There were about 20 applicants. There will be a review and rating of the applications; after which a list will be established. Once the list has been established the Deputy Director and pertinent staff will interview the applicants and make a selection.

**Information Technology** The Information Technology Manager stated that there were 11,689 visitors and 100,030 hits on the English website. There were 1,454 visitors and 75,000 hits on the Spanish website.

**GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT** Commissioners received copies of the General Counsel's Report (See attached).

The Labor Employment Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association had a seminar/training in Hagerstown on Title 20, MCHR's statute. There were about 16 attorneys from surrounding counties present. This training was regarding changes to the statute. Another training will be planned for the Eastern Shore in the near future.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Barbara Wilson