

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2006

The meeting of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations was called to order on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 10:05 a.m., in Baltimore, Maryland.

Present John Hermina, Sambhu Banik, Barbara Dezmon, JoAnn Fisher and Norman Gelman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as written.

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

Chairperson Owen could not be here today due to a conflict in his schedule. Vice -Chair Hermina will chair the meeting today.

Financial Disclosure Statement Vice-Chair Hermina informed Commissioners that Financial Disclosure Statements are in their folders. Commissioners are requested to complete the statements by hand or you can go on line to complete them. There is also a self-addressed, stamped envelope included for mailing to the State Ethics Commission. The statements are due by May 1, 2006.

Immigrant Study Commissioners received copies of the minutes from the Hispanic Community Study Meeting and also the draft of a proposal letter (See attached). Commissioner Gelman informed Commissioners that Jo Anne Schneider prepared the minutes. Commissioner Gelman stated that this is a two phase study, and funds have to be raised to conduct the study. The first phase will be a demographic study to identify the areas within the state where phase two will take place. Phase two is an attempt to interact through various Hispanic groups and agencies, within the state, that deal with the Hispanic population. The ultimate objective of the study is to come up with some suggestions and/or ideas to improve the delivery of services through a better understanding of what

the needs are of the Hispanic population. Doctors Schneider and Hanson will supervise the study.

The General Counsel would like a statement or inclusion in the goals and perimeters of the study that connect it to the Commission's mandate and mission. This connection needs to be articulated in the purpose and goals of the study.

Legislation
House Bill 262

House Bill 262- Country Clubs – Commissioners received copies of the amendments that were recommended to the Delegate (See attached). The General Counsel informed Commissioners that the bill, as drafted, did not provide any means of enforcement since it did not define what a country club was and how it would separate from private clubs in general. An amendment was done to the bill utilizing a definition that is contained in another section of the state law. The Governor's office gave the okay for MCHR to support this bill.

House Bill 1034

House Bill 1034 – Civil Rights Preservation Act of 2006 – a hearing was held on this bill but MCHR was not given the okay to support this bill. MCHR was told to take no position. The General Counsel provided technical assistance to Delegate Rosenberg and to the President of the Maryland Employment Lawyers Association.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Commissioners received copies of the Executive Director's Report (See attached). The Executive Director informed Commissioners that both of MCHR's budget hearings have been held. There has been no decision hearing on the budget yet.

Jonathan Riddix's
Retirement

The Executive Director informed Commissioners that one of MCHR's long term employees, Jonathan Riddix, and senior investigator retired as of February 28, 2006. Mr. Riddix served 35 years with the state and the Commission. MCHR appreciates Mr. Riddix's many years of hard work and dedication.

Vice-Chair Hermina moved that MCHR request a citation from the Governor's office for Mr. Riddix. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dezmon. Motion passed.

New Appointment

The Executive Director stated that the Deputy Director informed him that in the latest green bag appointments list a new Commissioner, Rabbi Elan Adler, from Baltimore county has been appointed to the Commission. MCHR has not heard this yet, therefore; it is not official.

**DEPUTY
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

The Deputy Director informed Commissioners that MCHR has been working to clean up the new data system. There were 66 intakes and 37 closures for the month.

EEOC & HUD Contracts	The federal contracts are on track. EEOC has raised their per case allotment to \$540.00.
HUD Proposal	MCHR prepared a proposal for education and outreach, which MCHR has already been doing. HUD came up with \$15,000 for this project.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT	Commissioners received copies of the agency's Monthly Budget Status Report provided by the Assistant Director (See attached).
GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT	Commissioners received copies of the General Counsel's Report (See attached).
Equal Pay Commission	The General Counsel informed Commissioners that she attended the meeting last month. The Commission will finalize their preliminary report. Commission meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Barbara Wilson