

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2007

The meeting of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations was called to order on Tuesday, March 13,, 2007 at 10:25 a.m., in Baltimore, Maryland.

Present Thomas Owen 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 informed Commissioners that he wrote to the Appointments Secretary to request that the vacancies be filled.

Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that the Executive Director informed him that he would not be attending the meeting today because of a family emergency.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT Commissioners received copies of the Deputy Director's Report (See attached). Both federal contracts are on track for the completion rate. MCHR is six months into the contract and have not yet seen a contract from HUD or EEOC, which is not unusual.

Commissioner Gelman inquired as to if the remedies bill passed would it make a difference in MCHR's intake rate. The Deputy Director stated that it is difficult to say whether the bill would have some impact on the intake rate. The bill's passing would have a greater impact on the legal department.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT Commissioners received copies of the agency's Monthly Budget Status Report (See attached). The Assistant Director informed Commissioners that FY 2007 budget is proceeding along on target.

FY 2008 Budget The Deputy Director informed Commissioners that the three positions in case processing that MCHR asked to be converted from general funds to state funds were agreed to by the Budget Analyst. These three positions and the

one attorney position are covered by state funds.

Information
Technology Unit

The Information Technology Manager attended a meeting of all Technology Officers for the state, during which time he learned that the new administration is taking a very aggressive approach to the delivery of state services through the web.

State Stats

The O'Malley administration will be running performance measures on state web sites. The administration will look for what users are not getting from the web site.

**GENERAL
COUNSEL'S
REPORT**

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

The General Counsel informed Commissioners that hearings have been held on both sides for the remedies bill, gender identity bill and the commercial non-discrimination bill. There have not been any votes on either side on any of the bills. MCHR received the green light on all four bills.

Senate Bill 934

Housing – Discrimination based on Source of Income – no hearing has yet been scheduled. MCHR has supported this bill in the past.

Human Right Day

COVE held its Human Rights Day which was well attended by a lot of legislators. Judge Ken Johnson was the speaker for the day.

Hispanic Study

Commissioner Gelman informed Commissioners that without any funds from the state the study will not go forward.

Commission
Meeting Time

Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that he spoke to Commissioner Allen, and that Commissioner Allen would like to remain on the Commission. Commissioner Allen also inquired about scheduling the meeting at an earlier time.

Chairperson Owen will contact Commissioners and remind them of the importance of attending Commission meetings.

Rabbi Adler
Celebration

Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that Rabbi Adler would be honored for 25 years of service as a Rabbi, on March 25, 2007 at the Meyeroff. Chairperson Owen, Commissioners and staff congratulated Rabbi Adler. Chairperson Owen requested that the Administrative Officer send a card to Rabbi Adler.

Commission meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.