

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2007

The meeting of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations was called to order Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 10:10 a.m., in Baltimore, Maryland.

Present Thomas Owen, Rabbi Elan Adler, Sambhu Banik and Norman Gelman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES The minutes were accepted with the following changes: 1) paragraph 3, line 5 after the word “to” should read “the Montgomery County Council Person, Duchy Trachtenberg”; 2) Page 1, paragraph 4, third word should be “presentation”; 3) Page 1, paragraph 5, eighth and ninth word should be “gender identity”.

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

Commissioner Vacancies Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that he has been in contact with Doreen Riggin from Secretary Hitchcock’s office and was informed that a new appointment has been made to the Commission. Someone from Prince George’s County has been appointed and is waiting for confirmation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT Commissioners received copies of the Executive Director’s Report (See attached). The Executive Director attended and was a speaker at the Hartford County Human Relations Commission retreat.

The Harford County Commission was interested in how the federal EEOC, the state MCHR and local commissions interact.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT Commissioners received copies of the Deputy Director’s Report (See attached). The Deputy Director informed Commissioners that MCHR completed both federal contracts.

**ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Assistant Director informed Commissioners that the budget for this fiscal year is going okay.

FY 2009
Budget Request

The Assistant Director informed Commissioners that MCHR has not heard anything regarding the FY 2009 budget request.

Chairperson Owen inquired as to the impact of the current cut. The Assistant Director informed Commissioners that MCHR lost one position that MCHR has been carrying over since last year. If additional cuts are mandated MCHR will defer hiring in the current vacant position.

**GENERAL COUNSEL'S
REPORT**

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

Commercial Non-
Discrimination Regulations

The General Counsel requested Commissioners approval of the regulations. The regulations will be submitted to the Maryland Register for publication after approval. Chairperson Owen asked why the regulations allowed the Complainant four years to register a complaint of discrimination, whereas the Respondent has only fifteen days to reply. The General Counsel stated that is according to the law passed, but that she and others agreed that four years is too long, and they will recommend shortening that time. Commissioner Gelman moved that the regulations be approved, motion seconded by Rabbi Adler. Motion passed.

Chairperson Owen and the Executive Director commended the General Counsel for the thorough and impressively detailed work she did on these regulations.

OLD BUSINESS

Hispanic Study

The Hispanic Study Committee members met with Dr. Schneider to discuss next steps in the project. It was agreed later that Chairperson Owen would contact Dr. Lenneal Henderson to discuss the need for someone from the University of Baltimore to assist with the development of policy statements, once the research is completed.

However, Dr. Henderson is on sabbatical, and could not be reached. Chairperson Owen then contacted University of Baltimore Provost, Dr. Wim Wievel. Dr. Wievel's office requested that Commissioners' reasons for meeting be put into writing and sent to them, which Chairperson Owen did. Chairperson Owen is now awaiting a response from the Provost's office.

NEW BUSINESS

The General Counsel informed Commissioners that they should be receiving, prior to next month's meeting, the amendments to the Rules

of Procedure and the housing regulations. When received please read and be prepared to vote on the amendments during next month's meeting.

Commissioner meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Barbara Wilson