

State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
April 13, 2021 – 10am
Meeting Held by Google Hangouts Meet
MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Gary C. Norman, Esq., Chairperson; Eileen M. Levitt, SPHR, SHRM-SCP; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick; Diane Bernier; Janssen E. Evelyn, Esq.; Stephanie Suerth, MPA, CCEP; Jeff Rosen; Magdalena S. Navarro

Management Present: Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director; Nicolette Young, Assistant Director; Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel; Kara N. Hunt, Ph.D., Director of Education & Outreach

Staff Present: S. Spencer Dove, Executive Associate; Melissa Dorsey, Investigative Supervisor; Alesha Bell, Investigative Supervisor; Maria Andrews, Civil Rights Officer

Guests Present: Nancy Goldring, President of the Northeast Towson Improvement Association on East Towson Community; Will Schwarz, President of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project

Meeting called to order at 10:04am

- Motion to approve March, 2021, minutes made by Commissioner Levitt, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn; minutes approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

- Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Chairperson introduced Ms. Nancy Goldring who will be presenting today on issues related to affordable housing in East Towson.
- Chairperson provided an update on the work of the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission, as well as efforts to extend the statutory sunset of the Commission.
- Chairperson gave the new Commissioners the opportunity to introduce themselves, and welcomed them to the Board of Commissioners.
- Chairperson reminded Commissioners that the agency is currently recruiting for a Deputy Director. Commissioners are encouraged to share the information with their networks.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director thanked the guest presenters for being with MCCR today.
- Staff are working with the new Commissioners to schedule an onboarding session with them prior to the May, 2021, meeting.
- If Commissioners need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Executive Director or the Executive Associate for assistance.

Assistant Director's Report

- Reviewed submitted written report.
- Discussed the Deputy Director recruitment.

General Counsel's Report

- Reviewed submitted written report.
- Provided an update on pending litigation.
- The Legislative Session concluded yesterday. A quick summary of some of the bills MCCR was tracking was offered. MCCR will provide a Session Review at the May meeting after the General Assembly updates bill information available to the public.

Education & Outreach Director's Report

- Reviewed submitted written report.
- Covered the successful Women's History Month events. Thank you to Michele Siri from the Women's Law Center of Maryland and all of the partners for making the events so successful.
- Previewed the upcoming Fair Housing Forum – April 27 and 28 as well as the “Fair Housing Explainer” video that will be released soon.
- Shared information on the upcoming “A Covert Crisis: Violence, Discrimination, and Civil Rights Issues facing Asian Americans” on April 21 from 12pm to 2pm. This event is in partnership with the Coalition Opposed to Violence & Extremism.
- Announced the addition of two new staff to the Education & Outreach Unit.

Old/New Business

- Commissioner Evelyn discussed that April celebrates volunteerism in addition to Fair Housing Month.
- Chairperson thanked staff for the opportunity to join last month's meeting, and congratulated them on the successful outreach events.
- Discussion about the Board Guidelines information disseminated in advance of the meeting. Motion to approve the document made by Chairperson Norman, seconded by Commissioner Suerth; motion approved unanimously.
- Assistant Director reminded Commissioners that Annual Ethics Disclosures are due this month. If you have not done so already, please be sure to fill them out.
- Commissioners have decided that elections for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be held in the Fall, 2021. Commissioner Evelyn was nominated to serve as interim Vice Chairperson by Commissioner Levitt; Commissioners vote unanimously to elected Commissioner Evelyn as interim Vice Chairperson, with Commissioner Evelyn abstaining.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 am.