

**State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
February 9, 2021 – 10am
Meeting Held by Google Hangouts Meet
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Gary C. Norman, Esq., Chairperson; Roberto N. Allen, Esq., Vice Chairperson; Eileen M. Levitt; Allison U. Dichoso, Esq.; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick; Gina McKnight-Smith, Pharm.D., M.B.A.

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

Meeting called to order at 10:06am

- Roll call.
- Motion to approve January, 2021, minutes made by Chairperson Norman, seconded by Commissioner McKnight-Smith; motion carries unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

- Chairperson provided remarks on Black History Month. The Board should work on expanding representation of African Americans in public service. We must foster leadership in African American youth. He noted intersectionality.

Executive Director's Report

- We look forward to the opportunity to recognize the contributions of African Americans during this month. We must expand upon Black History Month so that it becomes an integrative history throughout the year.
- Investigative Supervisor Melissa Dorsey provided an update on the HUD PIP.

General Counsel's Report

- Reviewed submitted written report.
- She provided an update about legislation that the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights has tracked and upon which it has filed testimony. The Board meets weekly with her tracking proposed legislation.

Education & Outreach Director's Report

- She provided an update on the activities of the Western Maryland Advisory Council.
- She reviewed submitted written report.
- She highlighted MCCR's first Black History Month event last night entitled "A House Is Not a Home: Structural Anti-Blackness, Gender and Housing Discrimination". The next event is February 17 entitled "Reviewing the Redline: Impediments to Fair Housing".
- She provided a preview of the Women's History Month programs.

- She congratulated Education & Outreach Associate Keith Merkey for his 20 years of service at MCCR.

Assistant Director's Report

- She reviewed submitted written report.

Old/New Business

- Commissioner Dichoso provided an update on efforts to implement the Commissioner portion of the 2024 Strategic Plan.
- Chairperson discussed items circulated to Commissioners regarding Board process and staff recognition. Chairperson would like to take action on these items at the March, 2021, meeting.
- In honor of Women's History Month, Commissioner Levitt will serve as Chairperson Pro Tem for the March, 2021, Commission Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 10:44 am.