

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

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

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; Alesha Bell, Investigative Supervisor; Maria Andrews, Investigative Supervisor; Awilda Peña, Intake Supervisor

Guests Present: Will Schwarz, Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission ; Camila Thorpe, MSBA Animal Law Section Student Representative; Jessica Avila, Governor's Summer Intern Fellow; Kimberly Fullerton, Esq. Past Chair of the MSBA Animal Law Section; Fernando Guerra, Esq. Chair of the MSBA Animal Law Section

Meeting called to order at 10:02am

- Chair provided an introduction of all guests and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Chair reviewed the list of events he provided in the agenda.
- Motion to approve June, 2021, minutes made; motion carried unanimously.

Guest Presentations

- Chair gave the floor to Will Schwartz to provide an update on the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission. Provided the legislative history leading up to the establishment of the MLTRC. Maryland is the first and only state in the nation to have a commission of this nature. There is a lot of opportunity, and Maryland is a leader on this incredibly important issue.
- Cory – filed action in the court on the condition of sidewalks and ramps in the City of Baltimore. It is a class action lawsuit with three named plaintiffs. The request is for MCCR to lend its support to the case. MCCR has experience with sidewalk and curb cut out accessibility issues in various jurisdictions around Maryland.

Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Moore and Mr. Turner discussed the historic Jonathan Street issue in Hagerstown, Maryland, at last month's meeting. They have provided additional information to MCCR as follow-up. They also shared information on the personal issues they have faced as a result of their activism for Jonathan Street. MCCR continues to review all of the information provided. Commissioners should receive a summary of the information and additional information from the Executive Director and Director of Education & Outreach within the next week.

- Investigative Supervisor Melissia Dorsey has accepted an officer from another employer. MCCR wishes Ms. Dorsey well and thanks her for her leadership, especially with navigating MCCR through the HUD PIP process that was successfully resolved last month.
- Kimberly Fulerton provided an update on statutory protections for service animals. Maryland is the 45th state to adopt this legislation. Ms. Fulerton thanked the hard work of the community and advocates, as well as MCCR for helping to make this legislation possible.

Assistant Director's Report

- Reviewed submitted written report.
- Agency is now in FY2022.
- Conducting Deputy Director interviews this month.
- Agency is working on FY2023 to prepare and submit the budget request.

General Counsel's Report

- Reviewed submitted written report.

Education & Outreach Director's Report

- MEILP has received 45 applicants for the upcoming cohort. One of MCCR's Civil Rights Officer will also be participating in MEILP.
- MCCR continues to enhance its regular programming. Dia Drake-Sprague is now up-to-date and will be offering twice-monthly employment discrimination and sexual harassment prevention trainings that are free and open to the public. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and to help spread the word! For the time being, all trainings are virtual.
- MCCR has begun committing to in-person outreach events being hosted by partnership organizations around the State.
- Be on the lookout for explainer videos that are being finalized and will be shared with Commissioners soon.

Old/New Business

- Covered upcoming events detailed in the agenda.
- Chairperson deciding if there will be a Commission Meeting in August, 2021.

Meeting adjourned 11:06 am.