



# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

*Respect...Integrity...Effective Communication*

March 26, 2025

## **Yolanda F. Sonnier Appointed Deputy Director of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights**

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) proudly announces the appointment of Yolanda F. Sonnier as its new Deputy Director. A seasoned leader in the fight for equity and justice, Ms. Sonnier brings a wealth of experience and an unwavering commitment to advancing civil rights across the state.

Ms. Sonnier previously served as the Administrator for the Howard County Office of Human Rights and Equity where she championed initiatives that empowered communities, dismantled systemic barriers, and fostered a culture of belonging. Her leadership has been instrumental in promoting policies that protect and uplift the most vulnerable among us.

"Yolanda Sonnier is a trailblazer whose passion and expertise will undoubtedly strengthen our mission at MCCR," said Executive Director Cleveland L. Horton II. "Her vision for a more just and inclusive Maryland aligns perfectly with our agency's core values. We are thrilled to welcome her to our leadership team."

As Deputy Director, Mrs. Sonnier will play a pivotal role in shaping the Commission's strategic initiatives, enhancing community engagement, and ensuring that MCCR remains at the forefront of the fight against discrimination. Her extensive background in civil rights enforcement, public policy, and community advocacy positions her as an invaluable asset to the organization and the people of Maryland.

Mrs. Sonnier's appointment marks a new chapter in MCCR's ongoing efforts to create a fairer, more just society. With her leadership, the Commission is poised to expand its impact and further its commitment to equity, belonging, and justice for all.

"I am honored to join MCCR in its mission to eliminate discrimination and advance equal opportunity for all, especially at a time when civil rights are under attack," said Mrs. Sonnier. "My commitment to civil rights is rooted in my deep belief in equity, justice, and human dignity. I look forward to collaborating with this dedicated team to drive meaningful change, amplify underrepresented voices, and continue to create a State of Maryland free of discrimination and inequities."

*"Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."*

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