

Prince George's County Human Rights Commission

Monday, February 28, 2022

Zoom Meeting of the
Prince George's County
Human Rights Commission

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Charlene Proctor, Chair
Felicia Sadler, Vice-Chair
Wade Woolfolk, Secretary
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Bannister Green
Wendi Howard
Sylvia Johnson
Ademola Oduyebo
Andrea Price-Carter
Joseph Reed

Keisha Garner, Counsel to the Commission

Excused:

Commissioner Price-Carter

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

Public:

Carisia Dyson
Xiomara

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and welcomed a guest from the public. Secretary Woolfolk called role of the Commissioners. The Chair noted Commissioner Price-Carter's excused absence.
2. Adopt Agenda – The Chair called for a review of the agenda. Hearing no corrections or objections, the agenda was adopted as distributed.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **January 24, 2022** meeting. The Chair called for a review of the Minutes. Hearing no corrections or objections, the minutes were adopted as distributed.
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed the Commissioners, staff, and members of the public.

5. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Chair noted the Executive Committee had met and had a productive meeting. Discussion included request for a stipend for the work of the Commission. The Chair is drafting a proposal and will submit it to the Executive Committee for review. They also talked about revisions for the By-Laws and the Rules of Procedure. Secretary Woolfolk was appointed to lead review of By-Laws and Vice-Chair Sadler was appointed to lead the review of the Rules of Procedure. The Chair asked for two volunteers to work on each committee. Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Gutierrez volunteered to join the By-Laws committee with Secretary Woolfolk and Chair Proctor. Commissioner Green volunteered to join Vice-Chair Sadler and Chair Proctor working on the Rules of Procedure.

The Chair also noted that regarding matters presented to the Commission for certification for public hearing, the full Commission is guided by Division 12 which does not call for a vote on the certification. Regarding requests for subpoena, Division 12 specifically calls for a majority vote of the full Commission and the full Commission would be following Division 12 in its handling of these matters.

6. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director provided an update about the Youth Leadership Academy, noting that the County Executive had recently held a press conference that referenced the Youth Leadership Academy and that the County had recently put out a video highlighting the Youth Leadership Academy. She also reviewed upcoming events including Prince George's County Reads ongoing monthly conversations about *A Question of Freedom*; March 10th's discussion on *The Southernization of America*; the Human Trafficking Faith Moves Mountains conference on March 22nd; March 30th a legal panel discussion on *A Question of Freedom* featuring local attorneys and judges; and March 31st we will have another in our *Women in Faith* series.

7. CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

HRC Case No.: HRC20-1002

EEOC Charge No.: 12H-2021-00002

Yolanda Davis-Barker v Denison Landscaping

Investigator Langston Clay

Panel Members: Commissioner Oduyebo as Panel Chair, Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Price-Carter. Commissioner Howard as alternate.

This matter has been scheduled for public hearing April 4 and April 12, 2022.

FEPA Charge No.: HRC21-0202

EEOC Case No.: 531-2020-02614

Teonna Marshall v Seafood Fusions, Inc (aka Hook and Reel, Inc.)

Investigator Langston Clay

Panel Members: Commissioner Bryant as Panel Chair, Commissioner Johnson, Vice-Chair Sadler. Secretary Woolfolk as the alternate.

This matter has been set for Public Hearing on May 11 and May 16, 2022. Subpoena requests are before the Commission.

8. CASE STATUS UPDATE

HRC Charge No.: HRC19-030
EEOC Charge No.: 531-2018-01416

Carisia Dyson v Staffing Etc.
(Investigator V'Hesspa Glenn)

Panel Members: Vice-Chair Sadler as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Oduyebo; Commissioner Johnson as alternate.

Five nights of public hearing in this matter were held on May 20, June 14, August 16, 17, and 18, 2021. The Panel has 180 days to reach a decision following receipt of the final transcript in this matter.

9. APPEAL HEARING

Below is an update of petitions for judicial review of Commission decisions before the Circuit Court of Prince George's County.

Henry Lewis v Board of Education of Prince George's County

HRC Case No.: HRC17-0809

This matter went to Public Hearing before the Human Relations Commission.

10. ATTENDANCE RECORD – Attached

11. NEW BUSINESS

Commission Meeting Dates

The Chair discussed if any Commission meetings could be deleted from the calendar. Having discussed it with the Executive Director, Clerk, and one of the members of the Executive Board, she noted that it seemed if one was to be deleted it would be most appropriate for it to be the June meeting. Commissioner Reed sought clarification on why a meeting might be omitted, and the Chair explained that it was being considered to balance workload of the Commissioners in this volunteer capacity with their personal lives, etc.

The Executive Director was invited to explain the parameters of the EEOC contract and how it impacts the business of the Human Rights Commission and acknowledged the work the Commissioners had undertaken when volunteering to join the Commission.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Johnson noted that June is around the election cycle and it is therefore a busy time for those Commissioners running for office.

12. **OLD BUSINESS - NONE**

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2022.

14. **CLOSED SESSION**

Vice-Chair Sadler moved to go to closed session; Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the Commission moved to Closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Upon return from Closed session, Secretary Woolfolk reported:

a. Subpoena Requests

FEPA Charge No.: OHR21-0904

The Commission voted to issue a subpoena in this matter.

FEPA Charge No.: HRC21-0202

The Commission voted to issue the requested subpoenas in this matter.

b. Appeals from the Executive Director's Action

OHR Case No.: HRC21-0605

Commissioner Reed moved that the Commission uphold the Executive Director's decision in the matter. Seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez. By unanimous vote the Commission voted to uphold the Executive Director's decision in this matter.

15. **ADJOURNMENT** – 6:54 pm

Commissioner Green - Moved to adjourn
Vice-Chair Sadler– Seconded the motion.

Wade A. Woolfolk

Commissioner Woolfolk
Secretary