

# Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

**Monday, October 26, 2020**

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

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **Commissioners:**

**Nora Eidelman, Chairperson**  
**Joseph Reed, Secretary**  
**Nathaniel Bryant**  
**Adonna Green**  
**Wendi Howard (excused late attendance)**  
**Sylvia Johnson**  
**Ademola Oduyebo**  
**Andrea Price-Carter**  
**Charlene Proctor**  
**Felicia Lasley Sadler**  
**Wade Woolfolk**  
  
**Kim Kendrick, Counsel to the Commission**

### **Staff:**

**Renée Battle-Brooks**  
**Executive Director**  
  
**Jose Villegas**  
**Senior Investigator**  
  
**Kyla Hanington**  
**Clerk to the Commission**

### **Guests:**

**Keith Merkey**  
**Michael Haggerty**  
**Tony Harmon**  
**Marcia Tucker**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:39.
2. Adopt Agenda – Commissioner Proctor – Motion to adopt; Commissioner Reed – Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the agenda was adopted as written.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **September 28, 2020** Meeting. Commissioner Johnson – Motion to adopt; Commissioner Bryant – Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the minutes were adopted as written.
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

**Chair Eidelman** thanked the Commissioners for their continued dedication, for taking the time to prepare for each meetings by reading the necessary documents, which the Chair acknowledged could take some time. She told the Commissioners that the appointment of a new Commissioner was on the agenda of the County Council for the coming week. She reminded the Commissioners that she is always available should they have any questions. The Chair thanked members of the public for attending.

## 5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **Executive Director** reviewed activities the office has undertaken since the last Commission meeting, including a discussion of the book *White Fragility*, holding the second Voting: Democracy in Action event, author discussions with Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. and Carter Sickels, holding a women in faith panel discussion, a Hispanics Against Human Trafficking Spanish-language anti-human trafficking event, conducted diversity and inclusion training with a forward-facing county agency, held a human trafficking awareness event with the school system, and held a book discussion on the One Maryland One Book selection *Island of the Sea Women*, and held the third Voting: Democracy in Action event in an event called The Sounds of Voter Suppression. She also alerted to the Commissioners to some upcoming events, including author discussions with Richard Blanco, Kendra Allen, Michael Farris Smith, Randall Horton, and Natasha Trethewey and a Veterans Recognition event in partnership with the Office of Veterans Affairs, scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Executive Director noted the office was continuing with intakes and had recently held a conciliation. Public hearings would be continuing shortly and that we have been working on processes and systems to go forward virtually. She asked Commissioners to stay tuned as their counsel would be reaching out to hearing panels in order to move forward.

## 6. CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

**HRC Case No.: HRC17-0809**

**EEOC Case No.: 531-2017-00390**

**Henry Lewis V Board of Education of Prince George's County**

**(Investigator Langston Clay)**

**Panel Members: Commissioner Proctor as Panel Chair, Commissioner Price-Carter, Commissioner Green; Commissioner Bryant as alternate.**

The first night of public hearing in this matter was held on January 28, 2020. Two more nights of public hearing were scheduled for March 11, 2020 and April 15, 2020.

Due to the health crisis, these hearings were postponed to dates to be determined.

**HRC Charge No.: HRC17-1102**

**EEOC Charge No.: 12H-2018-00006**

**Delannie Spriggs v Board of Education of Prince George's County**

**(Investigator Langston Clay)**

**Panel Members: Commissioner Reed as Panel Chair, Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Johnson; Commissioner Woolfolk as alternate.**

This case was scheduled for public hearing on March 3, 2020 and March 5, 2020. A motion for continuance was granted. New dates are pending. Due to the health crisis, this hearing will be scheduled at a later date.

**HRC Charge No.: HRC19-0306**  
**EEOC Charge No.: 531-2018-01416**

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

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

A scheduling order for this matter is pending. Dates will be determined once health crisis has passed.

**HRC Case No.: HRC19-0301**  
**EEOC Case No.: 531-2018-02758**  
**(Investigator Caitlin Mohler)**

**Joseph Watts, Sr. v Prince George's County Department of Corrections**

**Panel Members: Commissioner Price-Carter as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Bryant, with Commissioner Johnson serving as alternate.**

Commissioner Sadler recused herself from this matter.  
A scheduling order for this matter is pending.

**HRC Case No.: HRC19-0102**  
**EEOC Case No.: 12H-2018-00010**

**Theresa Barber-Wehrman v Board of Education of Prince George's County**  
**(Investigator Langston Clay)**

**Panel Members: Commissioner Green as Panel Chair, Commissioner Woolfolk, Commissioner Oduyebo; Commissioner Proctor serving as alternate.**

A Motion for Dismissal was before the Commission.  
Commissioner Johnson – Moved that this item to be moved to Closed session for further discussion and to consult with Counsel.  
Commissioner Reed – Seconded the Motion.  
By unanimous vote, this item was moved to closed session.

7. **CASES READY FOR DECISION - NONE**
8. **HEARING PANEL UPDATES – NONE**
9. **CASE UPDATE – NONE**
10. **ATTENDANCE RECORD – Attached**
11. **NEW BUSINESS**

Elections

- 1) Secretary

Commissioner Woolfolk ran unopposed and was elected by the Commission to the position of Secretary by a vote of 8 – 0.

2) Vice-Chair

Commissioner Proctor and Commissioner Reed each took a few minutes to speak to the Commissioners. Two votes were held. By a vote of 6 – 5, Commissioner Proctor was elected Vice-Chair of the Commission.

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs)

Commissioner Reed and Vice-Chair Proctor reviewed SOP efforts. Discussion between Commissioners re: draft SOPs. Commissioner Sadler commended Commissioner Reed for his leadership on the SOPs.

**13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2020.

**14. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Johnson – Moved to go into Closed Session.  
Commissioner Price-Carter– Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the Commission entered closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and to comply with the confidentiality provision of Division 12 which prevents public disclosure of particular matters.

Upon return from Closed session, Secretary Woolfolk provided the following:

**HRC Case No.: HRC19-0102**

This motion to dismiss was considered in closed session after being presented in the open session.

Commissioner Sadler – Moved to dismiss the matter.

Commissioner Green – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the case was dismissed and order was issued.

**FEPA Case No.: HRC20-0322**

Request for Certification for Public Hearing

Commissioner Bryant – Moved to Certify the matter for public hearing.

Commissioner Johnson – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the case was certified to public hearing and a hearing panel set.

Commissioner Green as Panel Chair, Commissioner Woolfolk, Commissioner Oduyebo, with Vice-Chair Proctor serving as alternate. A scheduling order will be forthcoming.

**HRC Case No.: HRC20-0311**

Appeal

Commissioner Sadler recused.

Commissioner Green – Moved to support the Executive Director’s determination and dismiss the case.

Commissioner Johnson – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, less recusal, the Executive Director’s determination was upheld and the case dismissed.

**HRC Case No.: HRC20-0201**

Request for reconsideration of Commission’s order.

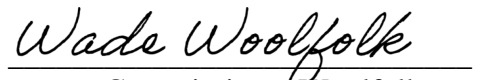
Commissioner Johnson recused.

Commissioner Sadler – Moved to deny the request for reconsideration.

Commissioner Green – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, less recusal, the request for reconsideration denied.

15. **ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair thanked the new officers for their willingness to serve. The Vice-Chair thanked the Commissioners for voting her into that position. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:36 pm.

  
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Commissioner Woolfolk  
Secretary