

Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

Monday, June 22, 2020

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

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Nora Eidelman, Chairperson
Joseph Reed, Secretary
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Green
Sylvia Johnson
Ademola Oduyebo
Andrea Price-Carter
Felicia Lasley Sadler
Wade Woolfolk

Kim Kendrick, Counsel to the Commission

Excused:

Johnathan Medlock, Vice-Chair
Wendi Howard
Charlene Proctor

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda – Commissioner Bryant – Motion to adopt; Commissioner Johnson seconded. By unanimous vote, the agenda adopted as written.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **May 18, 2020** Commission Meeting – Commissioner Green moved to adopt; Commissioner Sadler seconded. By unanimous vote, the minutes were adopted as written.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Eidelman apologized in advance if she did not seem well and acknowledged she was feeling very poorly. She shared that her father had passed away in Argentina earlier in the month. She noted that people continue to suffer from pandemic and from social and

political unrest and expressed her hope that we can change people's hearts and minds, her hope that this is the moment that everyone has been talking about – a time of change.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **Executive Director** expressed her sorrow to Chair Eidelman on the loss of her father and echoed the Chair's thoughts on the challenge and the hope of the times.

She shared that the HRC had, with several partners, booked Dr. Ibram Kendi to speak on April 3rd but that had to be canceled due to the pandemic. However in July he would be coming appearing virtually, date pending, and she said as soon as the date was confirmed we would share details. On June 30th the Clerk would join with Michelle from the library to discuss Dr. Kendi's book and she offered to send the link to any interested Commissioners. She noted our collective responsibility within our family and friends to educate people should we hear racist things from them.

The Executive Director requested holding virtual meetings beginning at 5:30 going forward. Discussion and agreement; the Chair agreed to send an email to all Commissioners asking if there are any concerns and if not the meetings held via Zoom will be at 5:30 pm.

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. No update at this time.

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. No update at this time.

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 Medlock, Commissioner Oduyebo; Commissioner Howard as alternate.

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

7. APPEAL HEARING – NONE

8. CASES READY FOR DECISION - NONE

9. HEARING PANEL UPDATES – NONE

10. CASE UPDATE - NONE

11. ATTENDANCE RECORD – Attached

12. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

13. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) – Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Reed quickly reviewed the SOPs that had been sent to Commissioners previously and noted some edits that had been changed. There was discussion regarding changes and suggestions on further edits. Discussion on ad hoc committees. Commissioner Reed noted that this was not the final pass through of the document and there would be no vote at this time on the document. Commissioner Reed requested that all Commissioners with comments, concerns, and/or edits to please send them to him by Friday the 26th so he can incorporate them into the document to be submitted for the July meeting.
- b. Mental Health Collaborative. **Commissioner Johnson** stated that the ad-hoc committee reviewing this proposal had been asked to hold their document until the SOPs had been finalized and requested that this item be placed on the July agenda. The Chair confirmed it would remain on the agenda. Brief discussion about logistics of event.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2020.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Sadler – Moved to go into closed session to seek legal counsel.

Commissioner Price-Carter – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the Commissioner moved into closed session.

Return from closed session:

HRC Case No.: HRC20-0319

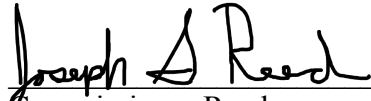
EEOC Charge No.: EEOC 531-2020-00403

Commissioner Sadler – Moved to approve the subpoena request and issue the subpoena.

Commissioner Green – Seconded the motion.

By unanimous vote, the subpoena request was granted.

16. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.



Commissioner Reed
Secretary



Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission