

Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

Monday, May 18, 2020

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

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Nora Eidelman (Chairperson)
Johnathan Medlock (Vice-Chairperson)
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Green
Wendi Howard
Sylvia Johnson
Ademola Oduyebo
Andrea Price-Carter
Charlene Proctor
Felicia Lasley Sadler
Wade Woolfolk

Kim Kendrick, Counsel to the Commission

Excused:

Joseph Reed, Secretary

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order called to order at 6:36
2. Adopt Agenda – Commissioner Sadler – Motion to adopt; Commissioner Price-Carter second. By unanimous vote, agenda adopted as written.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **May 18, 2020** Commission Meeting – Vice-Chair Medlock moved to adopt – Commissioner Bryant Seconded, minutes adopted as written
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**
Chair Eidelman expressed her hope that those presents and their loved ones are remaining safe. She recognized that some may be going through very difficult times and that in general this has been a very difficult time for Prince Georgians, with many

families loving loved ones. She expressed her appreciation to the County for delaying its reopening. The Chair also shared with the Commission a recent opinion piece in the Washington Post by Councilmember Tavares which highlighted the challenges of the immigrant community and how disproportionately hard it has been hit by the pandemic.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **Executive Director** discussed some of the outreach activities that the office has been undertaking, including outreach and programming with the library, and continued anti-human trafficking work. She explained that with the exception of conducting site visits, investigations are ongoing. The office continues to do most, but not all, of its functions via distance.

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 presented draft SOPs in advance of the April meeting; those documents were discussed in April and Commissioners were invited to make comments directly to Commissioner Reed via email. Commissioner Reed was unable to be at the May meeting so further discussion on SOPs will be discussed at the June meeting.
- b. Mental Health Collaborative. **Commissioner Johnson** submitted documents on Friday which were then distributed to all the Commissioners via email. The Chair invited her to make some comments. Commissioner Johnson noted that they had added some statistics to the document and invited Commissioner Oduyebo to speak on the data. **Commissioner Oduyebo** provided an overview of the data and explained it was a summary of need to get service providers on mental health in the County.

The **Chair** thanked them for their contributions and invited questions. **Vice-Chair Medlock** said he did not have any questions but did have comments. Noted that forward thinkers had seen that coming and expressed his hope that next month the Commissioners could decide on further action and have something to offer Prince Georgians during this horrid pandemic.

Commissioner Sadler noted need to have a lot of resources as she felt there may be a lot of people showing up. She stated that the ultimate goal is for people to know what their rights are in case they feel they have been discriminated against – including that they may have a claim under the ADA. She told her fellow Commissioners it was important they make sure they are prepared to handle the turnout, including having a platform that a lot of people can access.

Commissioner Johnson told the Commissioners she had recently been on a couple of calls that speak about mental health resources across Prince George's County.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2020.

15. CLOSED SESSION

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

Commissioner Proctor – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the Commissioner moved into closed session.

Return from closed session:

HRC 19-0402

EEOC 12H-2019-00020

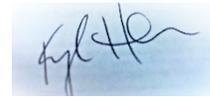
Commissioners Howard and Johnson recused themselves.

By unanimous vote less abstentions, the case is remanded to ED to make additional findings of fact. The questions from Commissioners will be submitted to the Executive Director no later than Friday, May 22nd.

16. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.



Commissioner Joseph Reed
Secretary



Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission