Prince George's County
Human Rights Commission

Monday August 24, 2026
Zoom Meeting of the
Prince George's County
Human Rights Commission

Attendees:

Commissioners:

Joseph Reed, Chair
Keith Adams, Vice-Chair
Shonda Harmon, Secretary
Traci Birckhead
Turkessa Brown
Caren Gillison
Erica Jenkins
Sylvia Johnson
Erin Kabba
Regina Truesdale
Ademola Oduyebo, Absent
Kayon Williams, Absent

Staff:

Jose Villegas
Executive Director

Azeem Lyons, Clerk
to the Commission

Guests:

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Secretary Harmon conducted the roll call for the Commission Meeting. The Chair announced that a quorum was present for the meeting.

2. **ADOPT AGENDA** – The Chair called for a review of the agenda. The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of July 27, 2026, Commission meeting. The Chair called for a review of the minutes. The minutes were adopted as distributed.

4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Reed wanted to shift his regular report to highlight a local human rights issue. Earlier this month a new commission was formed regarding the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children, which is located in Cheltenham, MD in Prince George's

County. They held their first meeting to examine the facility's history and identified that at least 230 Black children and other young people were believed to be buried at the site between the years 1880 and 1941. That commission has been charged with researching the institution's history, the operation, and the deaths of the young people. The task before this commission is particularly relevant to us as a Human Rights Commission. Not only do we as a Commission respond to individual discrimination complaints, but we have a broader responsibility to advance equity, inclusion, education and public engagement throughout the county. This work simply reminds us that the effects that discrimination can extend across generations. Understanding what happened, while at the same time preserving the dignity of those young people and making sure that their experiences are not forgotten is key. Understanding that history can become a part of a larger conversation about racial injustice and equal treatment in present day.

Chair Reed also mentioned that this work gives us an opportunity as Commissioners to think about how history informs the work we do today, whether we are addressing discrimination in housing, employment, education, public accommodations, or any other areas protected under the law. Chair Reed encouraged commissioners to stay informed and continue the work.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Villegas highlighted some of the activities over the past month. OHR staff participated in the National Night Out in many locations throughout the county including, Accokeek, Upper Marlboro, Bowie, Hyattsville, Berwyn Heights, and Greenbelt. Executive Director Villegas wanted to personally thank Commissioner Adams for stopping by at our Hyattsville location

Executive Director Villegas mentioned that OHR is continuing to do our Lunch and Learn programs in collaboration with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. A few upcoming programs include Hispanic Heritage Month. During Hispanic Heritage Month there will be a lunch and learn focusing on authors, books, and other topics related Hispanic experiences.

Executive Director Villegas also noted that OHR is in the planning stages of a Women in Faith event, working with a prior commissioner, Ms. Janelle Johnson. More information will be provided in the monthly newsletter.

Executive Director Villegas reminded the commission that OHR is no longer physically located the county administration building due to construction. Staff is currently teleworking until construction is complete. The construction may last as long as 7 months.

Executive Director Villegas reminded the commission about an upcoming event. The Maryland Commission is hosting a Civil Rights Conference on October 6th, from 9am to 4pm at Howard Community College. The registration is now open and the link is forthcoming from Clerk Lyons.

6. **CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING –**

OHR Case No.: OHR24-0806
EEOC Case No.: 531-2024-02348
Heather Curran v. Brentwood Animal Hospital
Investigator Tiffany Isom
Panel Members: Vice Chair Adams as Panel Chair, Commissioner Birckhead, Commissioner Truesdale; Commissioner Kabba as alternate.
The Public Hearing in this matter is scheduled for November 16, November 19, and November 20, 2026.

OHR Case No.: OHR25-0801
Tuan Evans, Sr. v. ZPM Management d/b/a The District at Forestville
Investigator Charles Floyd
Panel Members: Commissioner Jenkins as Panel Chair, Commissioner Kabba, Commissioner Harmon; Commissioner Williams as alternate.
The Public Hearing in this matter is scheduled for December 1, December 2, and December 7, 2026.

7. **ATTENDANCE RECORD** – Attached

8. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

9. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS –** The next commission meeting will be held on September 28, 2026.

11. **CLOSED SESSION -**

Motion by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Brown to move to Closed session at 5:44pm. To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter, the Commission moved to closed session.

In the case of OHR26-0301, the Commission voted to issue a subpoena to compel the respondent to produce records relevant or necessary to the investigation.

12. **ADJOURNMENT-** Motion by Vice Chair Adams and seconded by Commissioner Birckhead to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm

Shonda W. Harmon, MBA, MPA

Shonda W. Harmon
Commission Secretary