Prince George's County
Human Rights Commission

Monday June 22, 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 (Excused)
Turkessa Brown
Caren Gillison
Erica Jenkins
Sylvia Johnson
Erin Kabba
Regina Truesdale (Excused)
Ademola Oduyebo
Kayon Williams

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 May 18, 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 once again thank everyone for the continued commitment to human rights in our county, especially since we are meeting a few days after Juneteenth. Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people from Texas finally knew they were free. The important thing to note is that this was two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Freedom had been declared but not yet realized. The promise existed on paper, long before it reached their ears or their lives. That gap between what is promised and what is lived, that is the essence of the work of the Commission.

Chair Reed reminded us that Juneteenth is a celebration, and rightfully so, but also a reminder that the rights declared are not the same as the ones that are realized. That difference is measured in the experiences of those who work and live in this county, and country as well. Their experiences include how they are treated when applying for a job, seeking housing, walking into a place of business, or simply moving around their community.

Chair Reed commented that Prince George's County is one of the most diverse communities in this nation and that is a strength. All the more reason for us to raise the pride flag and reaffirm the county's commitment to being inclusive and welcoming. Our commitment to dignity and civil rights can't be selective. It needs to extend to everyone, regardless of their race, religion, national origin, gender identity, etc.

Finally, Chair Reed reminded us that the people who first celebrated Juneteenth, did not have a human rights commission. To that end, it is a privilege and a responsibility to make the promise of equal rights just a little more real for the people that we serve.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Villegas stated that three months ago, the county asked for the Commission to move to Teams as a platform for meetings. However, Zoom is a friendlier platform for the Commission's needs and we will be using Zoom for commission meetings, or public hearings in the future.

Executive Director Villegas mentioned the OHR has participated in many events. One event was the multicultural event, on May 30th in Bowie. Executive Director Villegas wanted to thank Commissioner Kabba for attending and participating.

Executive Director Villegas mentioned that on the same day, OHR also participated in the Maryland 250th celebration in Bowie. In addition, OHR attended the LGBTQ+, event organized by the police department at the National Harbor, the Mount Rainier flag raising event, and the commemoration of Juneteenth.
Executive Director Villegas reported that the Outreach Division is continuing to work with the county library system to have multiple Lunch and Learn events. One session dealt with misinformation by having a conversation with JJ Green. Another session dealt with the book

Prison Born and discussed birth and the prison system.

In addition, Executive Director Villegas reported that OHR and attorney Christian is in conversation with our public school system's Department of Social Studies to see whether we can hold one of the United States Constitution events in person, targeted to high school students, on September 17, which is Constitution Day.

Executive Director Villegas also mentioned that in last two weeks a total of 6 probable cause findings have been issued. They may or may not reach the level of public hearing. If commissioners already have experience with public hearings, or if they don't have any experience with public hearing and they think that they probably need to do some training, please let Chair Reed know.

6. APPEALS TO CIRCUIT COURT-

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

John DeVille v. Hugo Boss
FEPA Charge No.: OHR24-1014
EEOC Case No.: 531-2024-05157
On December 18, 2025, this case was filed for Judicial Review. A hearing in this matter has been set for July 10, 2026.

John DeVille v. Macy's
FEPA Charge No.: OHR24-1015
EEOC Case No.: 531-2024-03334
On December 18, 2025, this case was filed for Judicial Review. A hearing in this matter has been set for July 17, 2026.

7. ATTENDANCE RECORD – Attached

8. NEW BUSINESS – None

9. OLD BUSINESS - None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next commission meeting will be held on July 27, 2026.

11. CLOSED SESSION – Motion by Commissioner Kabba and seconded by Commissioner Williams to move to closed session at 5:48 PM. 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 OHR25-0119, there was a unanimous decision that the action of the Executive Director is upheld, and the case shall stand dismissed. In the case of OHR26-0205, there was a unanimous decision that the action of the Executive Director is upheld, and the case shall stand dismissed.

12. **ADJOURNMENT-** Motion by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Brown to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm.

Shonda W. Harmon, MBA, MPA

Shonda W. Harmon
Commission Secretary