Prince George's County
Human Rights Commission

Monday, November 24, 2025
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 (Excused)
Caren Gillison
Erica Jenkins
Sylvia Johnson
Erin Kabba
Regina Truesdale
Ademola Oduyebo
Kayon Williams (Absent)

Staff:

Jose Villegas
Acting Executive Director

Azeem Lyons, Clerk
to the Commission

Guests:
John Deville

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 October 27, 2025, Commission meeting. The Chair called for a review of the minutes. The minutes were adopted as distributed.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed and wished the Commission a Happy Thanksgiving – the season of gratitude, community and resilience especially after 43 days of government shutdown. Chair Reed also noted that only 3 of the 12 appropriation bills were fully funded, so we

may be facing another potential Federal shutdown by the end of January. Chair Reed reminded us that Prince George's County is significantly impacted during Federal Government shutdown with more than 40,000 individuals or over 9% of our workforce living in the county.

Our role as commissioners is to stand up for the rights and livelihood of individuals who are affected by these decisions. Chair Reed reminded commissioners to carry that spirit of thanksgiving and commitment to fairness and justice that guides our work on the commission. Chair Reed also thanked the Commissions for their time and dedication – this is not easy work.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Acting Executive Director Villegas reminded commissioners that the newsletter will be emailed tomorrow highlighting October and November events.

Acting Executive Director Villegas attended the Councilmember Fisher Annual Senior Event- used that opportunity to inform the community about the agency's services. In addition, several community conversations were held. OHR invited Caitlin Dickerson, which is the Prince George's County Environmental Officer, where she was able to discuss what actions the Prince George's County government is taking to address environmental concerns in the county.

Also in the month of December, the City of Hyattsville and OHR is having an implicit bias discussion with the residents of the city, In addition, OHR is thinking about holding another event focusing on a discussion of the constitution, with Commission Attorney, Mr. Gabriel Christian in late December.

OHR has submitted the agency budget that was due on November 17 which reflects 5% decrease in budget as requested by the county to hopefully address the anticipated deficit. The OHR Language Access report was also submitted for review and approval.

Acting Executive Director Villegas also wanted to give thanks to all of you for your willingness to be part of this commission in the time that you give to the residents of the county by providing your service.

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:

Sabados v Attain Sports and Entertainment – Bowie Baysox Baseball Club, LLC
FEPA Case No.: OHR23-1002

EEOC Case No.: 12H-2024-00002
On June 23, 2025, this case was filed for Judicial Review. A hearing in this matter has been set for November 7, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

7. **ATTENDANCE RECORD** – Attached

8. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

9. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS –** The next commission meeting will be held on January 26, 2026.

11. **CLOSED SESSION-**Motion by Commission Oduyebo and seconded by Commission Johnson to move to close 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. The Commission unanimously voted to uphold the Executive Director's decision to have the case number FEPA Case No.: OHR24-1015 EEOC Case No.: 531-2024-03334 dismissed. In the second case FEPA Case No.: OHR24-1014 EEOC Case No.: 531-2024-05157 commissioners unanimously agreed to uphold the decision of the Acting Executive Director, and the case will stand dismissed.

12. **ADJOURNMENT- Chair Reed adjourned the meeting at 6:14 pm**

Shonda W. Harmon, MBA, MPA

Shonda W. Harmon
Commission Secretary