

Prince George's County Human Rights Commission

Monday, November 22, 2021

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

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Charlene Proctor, Chair
Wade Woolfolk, Secretary
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Bannister Green
Llamilet Gutierrez
Wendi Howard
Ademola Oduyebo
Andrea Price-Carter

Keisha Garner, Counsel to the Commission

Excused:

Vice-Chair Felicia Sadler
Joseph Reed
Sylvia Johnson

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda – Hearing no corrections or objections, the agenda was adopted as distributed.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **October 25, 2021** meeting – Hearing no corrections or objections, the minutes were adopted as distributed.
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair wished everyone good evening and noted this is the last meeting of the calendar year. She reminded the Commissioners there is no meeting in December and the next meeting will be held in January. She reviewed the many changes over the last year, with a new Commissioner, Llamilet Gutierrez; new counsel, Keisha Garner; updated Division 12; and new officers. She noted the diligence and commitment of all the Commissioners. She thanked the Commissioners for all that they do and wished everyone well for the upcoming holiday.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director echoed the thanks of the Chair and thanked the Commissioners for all of the work that they are doing. She also noted the efforts that the Commissioners had made in catching up on public hearings over the last year. The Executive Director also provided updates about events, noting that January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and promised the Clerk would send out information about programming. She also brought attention a new bill passed, CB-97-2021, which will take effect in January 2022. She noted the office has reassigned one of the senior investigators to work to determine how the bill will unfold, who the partners are in the County, to hold listening sessions, and really work to engage in the rollout of the new bill and the new processes in the office.

The Chair opened the floor for questions to the Executive Director about the new bill. Some discussion about the bill and expectations about its impact on the office, the Commission, and what it will mean to residents.

6. CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING - NONE

7. CASE STATUS UPDATE

HRC Charge No.: HRC19-0306

EEOC Charge No.: 531-2018-01416

Carisia Dyson v Staffing Etc.

(Investigator V'Hesspa Glenn)

Panel Members: Vice-Chair Sadler as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Oduyebo; Commissioner Johnson as alternate.

Five nights of public hearing in this matter were held on May 20, June 14, August 16, 17, and 18, 2021. The Panel has 180 days to reach a decision following receipt of the final transcript in this matter.

FEPA Charge No.: HRC20-0322

EEOC Case No.: 531-2020-00697

Reddick v DC Tours & Transportation

Panel members: Secretary Woolfolk as Panel Chair, Commissioner Oduyebo, Commissioner Green; Chair Proctor as alternate.

Four nights of public hearing in this matter were held on April 29, May 6, May 10, and June 8, 2021. Panel deliberations have concluded and a full decision is expected for the January 24, 2022 commission meeting.

8. APPEAL HEARING

There were three petitions for judicial review of Commission decisions currently at the Circuit Court of Prince George's County.

Henry Lewis v Board of Education of Prince George’s County

HRC Case No.: HRC17-0809

This matter went to Public Hearing before the Human Relations Commission.

Marla Crawford v Board of Education of Prince George’s County

HRC Case No.: HRC19-0910

This matter was an appeal that was before the Human Relations Commission.

Stella Reeves v University of Maryland Capital Region Health

HRC Case No.: HRC19-0507

This matter was an appeal that was before the Human Relations Commission. This case was ordered dismissed from Circuit Court in August 2021 and is no longer before the Circuit Court.

9. **ATTENDANCE RECORD** – Attached

10. **NEW BUSINESS** – NONE

11. **OLD BUSINESS** - NONE

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2022.

13. **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Gutierrez moved to go to closed session; Commissioner Price-Carter seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the Commission moved to Closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Upon return from Closed session, Secretary Woolfolk reported:

Motion to Withdraw

HRC Case No.: HRC20-0401

EEOC Case No.: 12H-2020-00017

Commissioner Price-Carter – Moved to uphold the Executive Director’s motion to withdraw.

Seconded by Commissioner Bryant.

By unanimous vote, the Commission has voted to uphold the Executive Director’s motion to withdraw.

Appeals from the Executive Director’s Action

OHR Charge No.: HRC20-1203

The Commission has voted to remand the case back to the Office for further finding of fact. Discussion around what is requested. The Commission felt the summary provided was insufficient and requests further information. The Chair drew the Executive Director's attention to the case summary sheet and noted that they are not able to gather from the documents provided the substance of the investigative finding. The Office will provide the Letter of Determination to the Commissioners for the January meeting.

Certification for Public Hearing

HRC Case No.: HRC20-1002

EEOC Charge No.: 12H-2021-00002

The Commission will address this item at the next Commission meeting, on January 24th, 2022.

Commissioner Gutierrez recused herself from this matter.

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – 6:51 pm
Commissioner Gutierrez - Moved to adjourn
Commissioner Price-Carter– Seconded the motion.

Wade A. Woolfolk

Commissioner Woolfolk
Secretary