

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**



**COMMISSION MEETING**

September 12, 2012  
One Judiciary Square, 441 Fourth Street, N.W., Conference Room 1117

**ATTENDEES**

**Commissioners:**

Nkechi Taifa, Chairperson  
Michael Ward, Vice-Chairperson  
Edwin Powell, Secretary  
Motoko Aizawa  
Javier Araujo  
Alexandra Beninda  
Earline Budd  
Rahim Jenkins  
Mathew McCollough  
Denise Reed  
John Robinson  
Gabriel Rojo

**Commission on Human Rights Staff:**

David C. Simmons, Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Eli Bruch, Administrative Law Judge  
Dianne S. Harris, Administrative Law Judge  
Rohini Singh, Law Clerk

**Office of Human Rights Staff:**

Georgia Stewart, Mediation Manager  
Jenni Stoff, Deputy Director  
Alexis Taylor, General Counsel

**Members of the Community:**

Michael Sindram  
Steve Cross

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Taifa called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

## **II. ROLL CALL**

Twelve Commissioners were present at the meeting. Since at least eight Commissioners were present, a quorum was reached.

Chief Judge Simmons introduced members of the Commission and Office staff.

## **III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY MEETING**

The Commissioners adopted the minutes from the July Commission meeting.

## **IV. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Jenni Stoff gave the report on behalf of the Office.

Ms. Stoff informed the Commissioners of four matters. First, OHR reached its investigation goal for this fiscal year. Second, the Commissioners are invited to attend an event scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> to showcase a new transgendered rights campaign. Third, Ms. Stoff provided an overview of an OHR case that has recently received media attention. Fourth, a Language Access Program campaign is underway and they may see various ads throughout the City.

## **V. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Chief Judge Simmons delivered the report of the Commission and presented an overview of its performance since the last Commission meeting.

The Commission currently has a docket of 17 Commission cases, 5 OHR cases and 4 CBX appeals. Additionally, the Commission has 3 cases involving attorney's fee petitions.

The Commission's fiscal year 2012 performance goals have been established. The end of the fiscal year is close and the Commission will likely meet or exceed all of its performance goals.

At this Commission meeting and Commission meetings in the future, a short training on issues pertaining to the D.C. Human Rights Act will be conducted.

Judge Dianne Harris recently returned from a two-week course at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

Erica Aiken and Leona Clark both have completed their clerkship with the Commission. The Commission has brought on a new law clerk for the fall semester, Rohini Singh.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business was discussed.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Election of Officers**

Michael Ward was elected Vice-Chairperson; Edwin Powell was elected Secretary.

### **B. Report on the Awards Gala**

The Commission will hold this year's International Human Rights day event at the Kaiser Family Foundation Building on Monday, December 17 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. The event will include a presentation of the Neil Alexander Humanitarian Award, a ceremony honoring the City Council members who enacted the D.C. Human Rights Act in 1977, and an exhibition for the winners of the Youth Human Rights Ambassador contest. The Commissioners voted on and approved the program.

### **C. Report of the Rules Committee**

Vice-Chairperson Ward gave an update of the Rules Committee. The Committee met earlier in the month and made significant revisions to Chapter 3.

## **VIII. COMMISSION TRAINING**

Chief Judge Simmons provided a short training on the legislative purposes of the D.C. Human Rights Act and the areas of life/traits covered by it.

## **IX. COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Michael Sindram spoke about his concerns with the Office and state of human rights in the District.

## **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Budd invited fellow Commissioners to attend an event on transgendered persons' rights scheduled for 6:30pm on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Mova Lounge.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.