



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES FOR COHR MEETING HELD
VIA ZOOM ON MAY 13, 2026

Link to Meeting Recording

https://dc-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/C0LLexSzTA0dKS3XBKobY19Ib640ue67Vi32N8Soj-QAU2J4jx7jd0jVpP3kA-hh.AHhoHgb_KxqQ-eum

View in Zoom

**Link to Zoom
Meeting:**

<https://dc-gov.zoom.us/j/87341675322?pwd=appNy4Qj9NxaIkgwIZ6eSQ0LR5Ofwd.1>

Meeting ID: 873 4167

5322

Passcode: 308420

I. CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Motoko Aizawa, Chair

II. ROLL CALL: Chair Aizawa

Chair Aizawa conducted the roll call. The following Commissioners were present, constituting a quorum for the meeting:

Vice Chair Vladoiu: Present
Commissioner Aizawa: Present
Commissioner Baldwin III: Present
Commissioner Sim J. Singh Attariwala: Present
Commissioner Gardner: Present (arrived late)
Commissioner Maier: Present
Commissioner Moreno-Sanz: Present

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The circulated agenda for this Meeting was duly adopted.

IV. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES (March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes)

The minutes of the Commission's January meeting were duly approved.

V. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: Brittany Kent, Senior Advisor

Mrs. Kent provided the following updates:

- OHR's Hearing Unit is now fully staffed
- Takeela Dyer joined the agency as Legal Assistant in April.
- A new ADR Program Assistant has been hired.
- Additional investigators have joined the Enforcement Unit.
- OHR expects additional cases to be certified to the Commission in the coming months.
- OHR's proposed FY27 budget is approximately \$9.1 million.
- The proposed budget reflects a decrease from FY26 funding levels.
- Federal funding reductions from EEOC and HUD are anticipated.
- OHR will provide commissioners with a summary of FY27 budget information.

VI. LEGISLATIVE /OHR OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL ("OGC") UPDATES:

Juliette Niehuss, Acting General Counsel

AGC provided the following updates:

- Council is considering legislation related to the Language Access Act.
- Proposed changes would grant OHR regulatory authority and potentially expand remedies available for language access violations.
- Public financial disclosure filings were due May 15, 2026.
- Commissioners were reminded to use the email address originally submitted to BEGA when accessing the filing system.
- BEGA ethics and financial disclosure training remain required.
- Encouraged Commissioners to complete the required financial disclosure filings and BEGA ethics training requirements.

VII. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE: Abigail Coleman, Chief Administrative Judge

The Chief Administrative Judge provided the following updates:

- Four previously pending settlements have been finalized, securing more than **\$380,000 in monetary relief** for complainants, with a fifth settlement expected to be finalized shortly.
- Four evidentiary hearings are scheduled for Summer 2026.
- Seven newly certified Human Rights Act cases are currently pending.
- Five Criminal Background Check (CBX) appeals are currently under review.
- Commissioners were invited to volunteer to serve on an upcoming tribunal that will require detailed review of the evidentiary record.
- Two judicial interns have been selected for the Summer Internship Program, with onboarding scheduled for late May.

VIII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION: Chair Aizawa

The Chair of the Commission provided the following updates:

- Chair Aizawa reported no additional updates and noted that the previously planned announcements had already been addressed during the meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. James Yu, OHR Communications & Equity Programs (CEP), provided a brief overview of OHR outreach and potential collaborations with the Commission.

- Mr. Yu reported that OHR had completed 22 outreach activities to date in FY26, directly reaching 684 District residents and generating an estimated 1,400 community impressions.
- Outreach efforts have focused on Fair Housing Rights, Disability Rights, Employment Rights, Language Access, LGBTQIA+ Protections, Senior Protections, and Workplace Rights.
- OHR continues to collaborate with District agencies and community-based organizations, including the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA), the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the DC Center, and the Equal Rights Center.
- Mr. Yu provided an update on the Youth Human Rights Ambassador Program, noting that five applications had been received and recruitment remained ongoing. Applications were scheduled to close on June 1, 2026.
- Vice Chair Vladiou expressed interest in increased collaboration between the Commission and OHR on outreach initiatives.
- Commissioners discussed opportunities to expand outreach and engagement with employers, businesses, and community organizations.

X. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Chair Aizawa raised for discussion an update concerning the Awards Committee and the annual Human Rights Awards Ceremony, traditionally held in December.
- Chair Aizawa informed the Commission that there is no budget available for the Human Rights Awards Ceremony this year.
- Commissioners were asked to consider options for this year's ceremony, including either cancelling the event or holding the awards ceremony virtually.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The Chair thanked the ASL interpreters for their service. The Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

NEXT MEETING: JULY 8, 2026 at 6:30PM

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.