



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

Minutes of March 12, 2025 Meeting

Link to Recording of Meeting:

https://dc.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/EW0L5KBjztEsEpFzEob1n-TgXFyTHzODd_bUZO1qvoiMZqfj2rUM_kwhDJZGdnwc.R0lQla0VuvZlO2Bi?startTime=1741818950000

Passcode to Hear Recording of Meeting: x0\$4v6r#

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:35pm
- II. ROLL CALL: All present as otherwise noted below and a quorum was present.

Commissioner Aizawa
Commissioner Baldwin III
Commissioner Burnett - absent
Commissioner Maier
Commissioner Rettammel - absent
Commissioner Wiley
- III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The circulated agenda for the meeting was duly adopted.
- IV. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES (January 8, 2025, Meeting)

The January 8, 2025 meeting minutes were duly adopted.
- V. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: Director Kenneth Saunders
 - A new intake unit was established. The unit will be dedicated to intake, which will free up investigators to concentrate on mediation. The unit will be required to take in a minimum number of complaints.
 - OHR has additional vacancies it hopes to fill.
 - OHR is interviewing for the Chief ALJ position.

VI. LEGISLATIVE /OHR OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL (“OGC”) UPDATES:
Juliette Niehuss, Deputy General Counsel OHR OGC

- The Fairness in Human Rights Administration Amendment Act was subject to Congressional review and passed on March 21, 2025. However, implementation of the Act is not included in the OHR FY2026 budget. As such, OHR will need support to ensure that it can meet the possibly increased workload, including the Hearing Unit, and the extensive revisions necessary in the regulations to give effect to the Act.
- Likewise, the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2022 was adopted without any input from OHR or funding for it even though it is responsible for implementing it.
- Jackson v. Bailey housing case, which entered a default judgment for the complainant, was referred to the OAG for enforcement action. OHR is not aware of any precedent of this nature, and though the OHR OGC, Chief ALJ and the COHR Chair are working together on this matter, in the future, a checklist for this purpose would be very helpful.
- Financial Disclosure is due on May 15 2025.

VII. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:
Acting Chief Judge Brandes S.G. Ash

- Acting Chief Judge Ash was attending a conference, but submitted a report.

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

- The Chair reported that the planned Human Rights Ceremony could not take place in March, but instead will likely be held this December, due to intended, lengthy preparations.
- The Chair also asked that the election for officers be postponed till May. She received no objections following the meeting as she did not table this item for discussion

IX. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS (None)

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS (None)

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS (None)

XII. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING : Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

NEXT MEETING: May 14, 2025 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.