



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

OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES [DRAFT]
July 12, 2023, at 6:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Recording of meeting is available on the Open Meetings Website:
<https://www.open-dc.gov/public-bodies/meetings>
(Please note due to technical difficulties, it is only a partial recording)

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners

Motoko Aizawa, Chair
Charlotte Clymer, Secretary
Adam Maier
Anika Simpson
Teri Janine Quinn
Robert Baldwin, III
Karen Mulhauser

Office of Human Rights Staff

Hnin Khaing, Director
Andrea Goplerud, General Counsel
Brittany Kent, Special Assistant to Director

Commission on Human Rights Staff

Erika Pierson, Chief Administrative Law
Judge
Brandes Ash, Administrative Law Judge
Rose Hayden, Law Clerk

Absent

Commissioner Maria E. Burnett
Commissioner Lauryn Lowery
Commissioner Stuart Anderson

I. CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Aizawa, Chair

- Chair Aizawa called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL – Commissioner Clymer, Secretary

- Commissioner Clymer reported six commissioners are present, and there is a quorum. After the roll call Commissioner Quinn arrived. Commissioner Simpson departed early.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- The agenda was adopted as circulated.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: May 10, 2023, Meeting

- The minutes of the May 10, 2023 meeting of the Commission were adopted as circulated.

V. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: Director Hnin Khaing

- Director Khaing delivered a report of the Office of Human Rights.
- She thanked the Commission for working hard on the gala and the nominations praise, particularly Chair Aizawa. She also thanked the Chair for attending the Atlanta human rights event.
- OHR has onboarded a few more employees and is extremely busy at the moment with hearings, reviews, etc. The agency is attempting to close as many cases as possible.
- OHR is providing a new training in September for Commissioners to engage with the public about the duties of the Commission.
- The new youth ambassador program, which will be tentatively launched in 2024 and headed by Ernest Shepard, is intended to help young people understand human rights laws in D.C. The impetus for launching it, a young woman who was unaware that sexual harassment in schools is illegal. The Director solicited feedback on program notes from the Commissioners.
- Chair Aizawa highlighted further details on the youth ambassador program and discussed the need for a commissioner to volunteer as liaison for the program.
- Legislative update: New federal law protecting pregnant workers was highlighted. adding domestic workers to the Human Rights Act, as well as additional various amendments regarding the adjudication process. Language access may be considered soon.
- The Equality Network will have a mega networking job fair, July 27th at 4pm.

VI. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE & COMMISSION CASE INVENTORY: Erika Pierson

- Confirmation of three new commissioners and reappointments of three current commissioners has been moved to September. Their bios have been published in the D.C. Register and are available to the public.
- Judge Pierson recently attended the National Employment Lawyer's Association conference in Chicago and offered resources gathered there. Some Commissions from other jurisdictions in the country are defunct, particularly the NYC Human Rights Commission, whose budget has been slashed and have not adjudicated a case in two years.
- Regarding the youth ambassador program, Ernest Shepard ,will attend the next commission meeting to discuss it further.
- There are 18 pending cases, two of which are due for closure soon, which also are the two oldest pending cases.

VII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION: Motoko Aizawa

- Chair Aizawa thanked the judges for their hard work on the case inventory and especially thanked Judge Ash for her performance in a recent trial she observed.
- The incoming commissioners should be invited to the next commission meeting, even if they have not yet been confirmed.
- Chair Aizawa provided a summary of her back to office memo on the Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit conference in Atlanta in May, and mentioned that reparations, right to housing, and community safety and militarization of the police were the key topics of discussion. She invited the Commissioners to review her memo, circulated with the agenda, for further details.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Mandatory Training for commissioners on the 23 traits. Commissioners agree that it is best to have the training separate from regular meeting. Chair Aizawa acknowledged that the second Weds. of October is the preferred date and states that unless there are objections, that will be the date of the training – **October 11, 2023**.
- Chair Aizawa asked if any Commissioners would be interested in being a liaison for the youth ambassador program. No one volunteered. As full commission is not present Chair Aizawa will revisit the issue at the September meeting.
- Draft Policy on public comments discussed. Chair Aizawa acknowledged broad support for the draft policy. No objections were offered. Any edits should be emailed to Judge Pierson in the next two weeks.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- No Old Business

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Awards Committee** (Commissioner Aizawa)
 - 2023 Awards Gala: December 7, 2023
 - Location: Old Council Chambers, 441 4th Street NW
 - Theme physical and mental disabilities: “DC Human Rights Act: Protecting and Celebrating Bodies and Minds of All Abilities.”
 - We need to see the nominations come through. The Commission will be collaborating with three other DC Government agencies on the event.
 - The deadline for receiving nominations is July 31st.
 - Discussion regarding why the Emerging Leader award for students is limited to DCPS and charter schools and not private schools. There

was no extensive discussion on the matter but it was naturally aligned with the youth ambassador program.

- Schedule First meeting
 - Chair Aizawa will call it soon
- Potential to create a new award
- Menu and caterer and quote in the works
- **Outreach Committee (Commissioner Aizawa)**
 - Chair Aizawa invites everyone to spend a few minutes discussing what activities should be for Outreach. Commissioner
 - Commissioner Mulhauser discussed importance of outreach and possibilities of collaboration with OHR.
 - Director Khaing mentioned that OHR has no specific expectations for Commission outreach but stated that OHR stands ready to support the Commission's outreach activities.
 - Commissioner Quinn mentioned one way that commissioners can support outreach efforts is doing presentations for local ANCs and civic associations. She also mentioned coordinating with Main Street organizations. The Commission discussed approaching ANCs and civil associations in a systemic way.
- **Rules Committee (Commissioner Baldwin)**
 - Commissioner Baldwin puts out a call for new members among the Commission for the Rules Committee.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public Comment made by Richard Schertzer about the myriad of ways in which discrimination is experienced by sex workers, threatening their physical safety and financial stability.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

- Chair Aizawa closed the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2023 at 6:30PM - VIRTUAL

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.



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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

A * G * E * N * D * A [FINAL]
July 12, 2023, at 6:30pm
Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://dc-gov.zoom.us/meeting/tZUvduqvrz4tHNdbgLBHYPUGExJDbYGhdIYH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGprDopHdWQtx-ERpwcAIj4b-3zmCVago1ZnhjJIQhqUjbRE_poFrBGN9DU](https://dc-gov.zoom.us/join/https://dc-gov.zoom.us/meeting/tZUvduqvrz4tHNdbgLBHYPUGExJDbYGhdIYH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGprDopHdWQtx-ERpwcAIj4b-3zmCVago1ZnhjJIQhqUjbRE_poFrBGN9DU)

Meeting ID: 812 1371 5763

Passcode: 697050

Dial In: 301-715-8592

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Aizawa, Chair
- II. ROLL CALL – Commissioner Clymer, Secretary
- III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: May 10, 2023, Meeting
- V. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: Director Hnin Khaing
- VI. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE & COMMISSION CASE INVENTORY: Erika Pierson
- VII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION: Motoko Aizawa
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Schedule Training on 23 Traits: September meeting or October date?
 - b. Youth Ambassador Program. Need a Commissioner to work with Ernest Young, Youth Bullying Prevention Coordinator
 - c. B25-0319 “Fairness in Human Rights Administration Amendment Act of 2013.” Council hearing July 13, 2023

d. Draft policy on Public Comments

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Awards Committee (Commissioner Aizawa)
 - 2023 Awards Gala: December 7, 2023
 - Theme: “DC Human Rights Act: Protecting and Celebrating Bodies and Minds of All Abilities”
 - Nomination Form ready for distribution. **Due July 31, 2023**
 - Provide names of organizations to send nomination form
- Outreach Committee – Plenary Discussion (Commissioners Mulhauser and Aizawa)
- Rules Committee (Commissioner Baldwin)

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Richard Schertzer

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