



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

OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES [FINAL]

May 10, 2023, at 6:30pm

Hybrid Meeting

655 15th Street, NW and Zoom

Recording of meeting is available at:

https://dcdgov.zoom.us/rec/share/kDZNJE_q1MJh2IlzbnBPQYo3KLiK_RXvdFUqJl9cSpHLbh6VFY06GCZVQV4MYfALqGijONG3ai1bMZLg

Reminder: Financial Disclosures Due May 15, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners

Motoko Aizawa, Chair
Charlotte Clymer, Secretary
Adam Maier
Anika Simpson
Teri Janine Quinn
Eleanor Collinson
Lauren Lowery
Robert Baldwin, III
Stuart Anderson

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 Karen Mulhauser

Office of Human Rights Staff

Hnin Khaing, Director
Andrea Goplerud, General Counsel

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Aizawa, Chair
 - Chair Aizawa called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- II. ROLL CALL – Commissioner Clymer, Secretary
 - A quorum was established.
- III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - The agenda was adopted as circulated.
- IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: March 8, 2023, Meeting
 - The minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting of the Commission were adopted as circulated.
- V. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: Director Hnin Khaing
 - AAPI Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month
 - Mayor’s Office is hosting May 22, 2023 “Foodilicious” event
 - OHR hosting panel for AAPI Heritage month May 24, 2023
 - May 23, 2023, OHR will host Protected Traits Training Day from 12-1:30 P.M.
 - Today, May 10, 2023 OHR spoke with the mayor on public safety and justice to weigh in on how to address public safety concerns
 - May 26 and May 27 OHR will be a part of (Black?) Pride
 - Budget for OHR. Most recent updates is that 3 of the positions might be funded. Council will vote on the budget on Tuesday, May 16, 2023
 - Council will fund Domestic Workers Fairness Act, in FY 24 OHR will begin to enforce law
 - OHR developed a new Informational Sheet and a new form for the Eviction Record Sealing Act to prevent further source of income information
 - Chair Aizawa will attend the Human Rights City Conference in Atlanta Georgia, May 18, 2023
 - Concerns to address as a whole: confirmations and removal of appointments for the commissioners. If up for reappointment, try to get materials prepared for review far in advance and not allow them to lapse. Importance of convening for tribunals to close cases quickly.
 - GC Goplerud added that if any Commissioners have questions about financial disclosures, they can ask her or go to BEGA. DC email addresses are not needed and prior year information is saved.
- VI. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE & COMMISSION CASE INVENTORY: Erika Pierson

- Reappointments (Aizawa, Mulhauser and Quinn) have been delayed at MOTA due to staff changes.
- Commissioners pending reappointment are able to act in the same capacity: *De Facto Officer* Doctrine
- Four vacancies and four candidates: waiting for MOTA to move them to the Council.
- Fellowship is filled for FY 23-24 to start in August
- Addison Rose, the recipient of law year's Emerging Leader Award will attend UNC Chapel Hill on a full academic scholarship
- OHR website updated with most recent cases and cases sent for publication in DC Register.
- Office of Open Government is offering online training for parliamentary procedure. To gain access to the training, email nicholas.weil@dc.gov
- Case inventory: we have 18 cases pending currently. Four cases closed since the last meeting.

VII. PRESENTATION: Tribunals and Case Management System Refresher for Tribunals

- You need to log into the DCBC email at least once a month to keep your account active. If you don't, someone in OCTO needs to reset the emails.
- With Case Management System, some people forget the password or after you log in, you cannot see any cases.
- If you forget your password, use the forget password link and use your personal email
- If you log in, you need to go from Cases Pending My Action to All Open Cases which will show you every case to which you have been assigned.
- When reviewing cases, each Commissioner has their own method: one suggestion is to go to the Proposed Order, then go to the Letter of Determination (LOD) and review relevant documents at the end.

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

- Chair Aizawa will attend Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit in Atlanta Georgia, May 18, 2023
- May 15, 2023, OHR hosting State Department Distinguished Humphries Fellows—hosting the fellows to engage with OHR—11 a.m. Open to all Commissioners and especially the Outreach Committee
- Listening Lab on Fair Housing Month Event, Source of Income protected trait. People shared their experience of what it's like to become a tenant and use a voucher. The subtle harassments—enormously informative.
- Actively participate in tribunals and committee work, such as Rules Committee and Awards Committee; attending trainings and attending tribunals is very important. Actively communicate and remain informed to assist OHR in meeting performance targets. Perhaps a written letter or signed letter, such as an appointment letter and be clear about expectations. Chair Aizawa will be going around and talking to Commissioners one-on-one to hear about their experiences and get feedback.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Farewell And Thank You to Commissioners Collinson and Allen
- Chair Aizawa expressed her thanks to Eleanor Collinson, who has served on the Commission for 6 years. Commissioners Collinson and Allen were presented with plaques in recognition of her invaluable contributions.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Act passed and Commissioner Mulhauser (who is not present) worked very hard on this and will speak about it next meeting
- At the request of the majority of Commissioners, most meetings will be held virtually unless there is a special occasion or a request for an in-person meeting.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Awards Committee (Commissioner Aizawa)
 - 2023 Awards Gala: December 7, 2023
 - Location: Old Council Chambers, 441 4th Street NW
 - Theme likely to be about disability, including mental disability; discussed how narrow a theme should be
 - New Member Needed
 - And a request for a chair for this committee
 - 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
 - No report
- Rules Committee (Judge Pierson)
 - Need a new member and request a chair for the committee.
 - Commissioner Baldwin, III volunteered to chair
 - Revising Chapter 4, slowing down a little bit so that OHR can focus on the budget and allow OGC to close cases. Goal is to look at Chapter 4 comprehensively by the end of the year. Not emergency rulemaking.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Collinson shared that there was an article in the Washington Post - Cedar Falls, Iowa – Human Rights Commission convinced Mayor to adopt a Proclamation declaring June as Pride month. The resolution, submitted by the city’s Human Rights Commission, reaffirms the city’s commitment to “supporting visibility, dignity and equality for LGBTQIA+ people in our diverse community” and calls for the month of June to be celebrated as Pride Month to educate and raise awareness on the history and current struggles of the LGBTQ community. The Mayor initially was not going to sign because of his religious beliefs. But after a public hearing he understood that signing the proclamation did not mean he agreed with all its contents, but he supports the community’s right to feel safe. This is a good reminder of the need to do this work in less progressive communities.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT OF MEEETING

- Chair Aizawa closed the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2023 at 6:30PM - VIRTUAL



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