

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



COMMISSION MEETING

July 10, 2013

One Judiciary Square, 441 Fourth Street, NW, Conference Room 1117

ATTENDEES

Commissioners:

Nkechi Taifa, Chairperson
Michael Ward, Vice-Chairperson
Motoko Aizawa
Earline Budd
Rahim Jenkins
Mathew McCollough
Denise Reed
John Robinson
Gabriel Rojo
David Scruggs

Commission on Human Rights Staff:

David C. Simmons, Chief Administrative Law Judge
Eli Bruch, Administrative Law Judge
Dianne S. Harris, Administrative Law Judge
Eboni Robinson, Law Clerk

Office of Human Rights Staff:

Gustavo Velasquez, Director
Alexis Taylor, General Counsel

Members of the Community:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Taifa called the Commission's July meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Chief Judge Simmons conducted the roll call. Ten Commissioners were present at the meeting. Since at least eight Commissioners were present, a quorum was reached.

III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH MEETING AND CIRCULATION OF THE INFORMAL MAY COMMISSION MEETING

The Commissioner adopted the Commission's March meeting minutes and approved the Commission's May informal meeting.

IV. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Director Velasquez gave the report on behalf of the Office and gave a brief overview of its performance since the last Commission meeting.

Director Velasquez provided the Commissioners with detailed statistics on OHR's performance in May and June 2013. Thus far in FY 2013, OHR's total settlement benefits to date are \$1,586,675.45.

Thus far in FY 2013, OHR has issued 13 probable cause determinations.

Director Velasquez told the Commissioners that OHR intends to provide funding for the Commission's annual event in December. The Commissioners were asked to begin thinking about this year's event because the money must be spent or obligated by September 30th.

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 14 Commission cases, 5 OHR cases, and 5 CBX appeals.

Thus far in FY 2013, the Commission closed 6 Commission cases, 4 Office cases and 3 CBX cases. Chief Judge Simmons expects to reach many of the Commission's closure goals for the fiscal year.

Chief Judge Simmons introduced Eboni Robinson, the Commission's summer law clerk, to the Commissioners.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Report of the Education Efforts Concerning Returning Citizens

Chairperson Taifa informed the Commissioners that the Office of the Attorney General issued an opinion denying the Commissioners the authority to hold an educational briefing on issues pertaining to Returning Citizens.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Budd, along with numerous District government board members and commissioners, attended a meeting with Mayor Vincent Gray. According to Commissioner Budd, the Mayor discussed several of his plans for the District of Columbia.

VIII. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

No community comments were made.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission's July meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission held an Executive Session closed to the public.