

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



OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING

November 9, 2016
One Judiciary Square, 441 Fourth Street, NW, Room 1117

ATTENDEES

Commissioners:

Commissioner Fowlkes, Chairperson
Commissioner Aizawa, Secretary
Commissioner Figueroa-Garcia
Commissioner Maier

Commissioner McCollough
Commissioner Muhammad
Commissioner Mulhauser
Commissioner G. Reed

Office of Human Rights Staff:

Hnin Khaing, Deputy Director
India Daniels, Compliance Officer

Commission on Human Rights Staff:

Dianne S. Harris, ALJ
J.P. Howard, ALJ
Edward Street, Law Clerk

Members of the Public:

Michael Sindram

MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fowlkes called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Aizawa conducted the roll call. Six active Commissioners were initially present, two additional Commissioners arrived completing the quorum shortly after

III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

As a quorum was not initially present; consequently, Chairperson Fowlkes moved directly to the report of the Director of the Office of Human Rights. During the report additional Commissioners arrived. After the report, Chairperson Fowlkes directed the Commissioners to review the September meeting minutes. Commissioner Figueroa-Garcia moved to adopt the minutes. Commissioner McCollough seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by acclamation.

IV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF OHR

Hnin Khaing, Deputy Director of the Office of Human Rights, gave the report of the Director. Deputy Director Khaing highlighted points of the written Director's Report provided to the Commission including:

- Introduction of Ms. India Daniels who is the OHR Compliance Officer;
 - Ms. Daniels briefly spoke introducing herself to the Commission and expressing her excitement to work with the Commission.
- A status update on OHR & COHR regulations;
- Figures from the OHR Production Report;
- A review of recent legislative activity from the City Council; and
- A report on the OHR EEO Officer training which was set to conclude on December 16, 2016.

Several Commissioners expressed interest in the OHR EEO training and some discussion was had. Deputy Director Khaing invited the Commissioners to sit in on the training and noted that the training series will begin in the spring.

The Commissioners also entered into discussion regarding the D.C. Death with Dignity Act. Commissioner McCollough asked if OHR had looked into the bill or its relation to the Americans with Disabilities Act and DCHRA. Deputy Director Khaing provided explanation of the interplay between OHR and the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs. Further discussion was held on the Act.

V. REPORT OF CALJ

Administrative Law Judge Dianne S. Harris presented the report of the Chief ALJ.

- The Commission's docket currently has:
 - Twenty-four (24) Commission Cases, and has received no new cases in FY17;
 - Ten (10) Office Cases, and has received no new cases in FY17; and
 - Four (4) CBX cases, and has received no new cases in FY17.
 - At this time the Commission has not received any FCRSA cases.
- To date, in FY17, the Commission has closed:
 - One Commission case,
 - Zero Office case, and
 - Zero CBX cases.
 - One Commission case and one Office case are in the process of being removed from the Commission docket.
- Judge Harris discussed the Human Rights Award Gala providing an overview and updates on logistics; the reception portion of the event; and the awardee, Mr. James Sandman.
- Judge Harris updated the Commissioners on the Youth Human Rights Ambassadors program and announced the Showcase of YHRA Exhibits to be held at Georgetown

University Law Center on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, at the Ginsburg Sports & Fitness Center Lobby.

VI. OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Fowlkes followed the conclusion of Judge Harris' presentation by opening the floor for the Commissioners to report on their visits to schools in support of the Youth Human Rights Ambassadors Program. The Commissioners shared different experiences from their involvement with several schools. There was particular concern regarding Commissioner Reed's experience at Anacostia High School. Other Commissioners expressed concern with planning; discussed experience from the previous year; and questioned what OHR had done with a standardized presentation developed by Commissioner Muhammad. Several Commissioners proposed a meeting with the Street Law Program at Georgetown to discuss the YHRA Program. Administrative Law Judge J.P. Howard noted that a debriefing meeting will occur; that the Commissioners will be informed and invited; and reminded the Commission of the planning meeting that was held in September and announced to the Commission.

Chairperson Fowlkes discussed an invitation that he accepted to speak at a meeting of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations where he was able to observe some of its work and learn about the laws that the Philadelphia Commission enforces. He suggested that he thought that our law was more comprehensive and our system is better.

Judge Howard also provided an update on the pursuit of a case management system for the Commission. Judge Howard noted that an agreement was in the process of being finalized for signature and that planning for implementation had begun. He also asked the Commissioners to be prepared to assist in the beta testing of the system during the iterative phase of implementation.

VII. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Michael Sindram provided community comments. He expressed concern with OHR; concern with the termination of a member of OHR; and concern with accessing the building for the Commission's public meeting. Commissioner Reed expressed a similar concern regarding accessing the building. Chairperson Fowlkes asked Judge Howard to address the issue and Judge Howard confirmed that it will be addressed with the building's management.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission's November public meeting adjourned at approximately 7:46 pm.