

# Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

**Monday, January 25, 2021**

Zoom Meeting of the  
Prince George's County  
Human Relations Commission

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **Commissioners:**

**Nora Eidelman, Chairperson**  
**Charlene Proctor, Vice-Chair**  
**Wade Woolfolk, Secretary**  
**Nathaniel Bryant**  
**Adonna Green**  
**Llamilet Gutierrez**  
**Wendi Howard**  
**Sylvia Johnson**  
**Ademola Oduyebo**  
**Andrea Price-Carter**  
**Charlene Proctor**  
**Joseph Reed**  
**Felicia Lasley Sadler**  
**Wade Woolfolk**

**Kim Kendrick, Counsel to the Commission**

## **Staff:**

**Renée Battle-Brooks**  
**Executive Director**

**Kyla Hanington**  
**Clerk to the Commission**

**Jose Villegas**  
**Senior Investigator**

**Sumeana Leslie**  
**Senior Investigator**

## **Guests:**

**Keith Merkey - MCCR**  
**Alison Leach**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda – Commissioner Sadler– Motion to adopt; Commissioner Reed– Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the agenda was adopted as written.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **November 23, 2020** Meeting. Corrections noted.  
Commissioner Bryant – Motion to adopt with noted changes; Commissioner Johnson– Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the minutes were adopted as written with the noted changes, less Commissioner Gutierrez abstention.
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed her hope they and their families had had a good holiday season. She noted the ongoing worldwide challenge. Due to the long meeting ahead she kept her remarks brief, but took a few minutes to acknowledge and thank her fellow commissioners, giving special thanks to the members of the Lewis hearing panel, who worked in the middle of the holidays, holding two hearings in December. She also thanked the Human Relations Commission staff for working during this time, and expressed her appreciation for the willingness of the members of the Spriggs matter. She thanked all of the Commissioners for their efforts and recognized the amount of work needed to do this important work. She invited any Commissioners who were interested to attend any hearing panels. She gave a special welcome to the new commissioner, Llamilet Gutierrez, and invited her to say a few words.

Commissioner Gutierrez introduced herself to all the Commissioners and expressed her enthusiasm to do this work serving her community.

## 5. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The **Executive Director** echoed the Chair's welcome to Commissioner Gutierrez. She shared that the staff side has put on at least twenty-two events since the Commission last met, either through diversity, equity, and inclusion or through the Human Trafficking task force. She noted several, including human trafficking podcasts, a fascinating conversation with William G. Thomas on this book *A Question of Freedom*, a discussion on segregation academies, a conversation with Senator Ben Cardin about human trafficking, and training and awareness events related to human trafficking. Upcoming events include an event Tuesday on mental health and human trafficking, a Spanish-language paint and presentation event, on February 9<sup>th</sup> we welcome Jemar Tisby in conversation that will be aired on C-Span, February 10<sup>th</sup> an HIV event, February 11<sup>th</sup> another voting event, February 17<sup>th</sup> another author event, this one with Anna Malaika Tubbs, and on the 18<sup>th</sup>, an event with the County Executive's Africa Diaspora liaison. She invited the Commissioners to attend any or all of these events.

## 6. **CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**HRC Case No.: HRC17-0809**

**EEOC Case No.: 531-2017-00390**

**Henry Lewis V Board of Education of Prince George's County**

**(Investigator Langston Clay)**

**Panel Members: Vice-Chair Proctor as Panel Chair, Commissioner Price-Carter, Commissioner Green; Commissioner Bryant as alternate.**

The first night of public hearing in this matter was held on January 28, 2020. Two more nights of public hearing were scheduled for March 11, 2020 and April 15, 2020. The case continued virtual public hearings on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The next date for this case is January 27, 2021.

**HRC Charge No.: HRC17-1102**  
**EEOC Charge No.: 12H-2018-00006**  
**Delannie Spriggs v Board of Education of Prince George's County**  
**(Investigator Langston Clay)**

**Panel Members: Commissioner Reed as Panel Chair, Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Johnson; Commissioner Woolfolk as alternate.**

This case was scheduled for public hearing on March 3, 2020 and March 5, 2020. A motion for continuance was granted. Virtual hearing dates were scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. On January 4<sup>th</sup> the parties reached a settlement and the parties are expected to file a motion of dismissal on or before February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**HRC Charge No.: HRC19-0306**  
**EEOC Charge No.: 531-2018-01416**

**Carisia Dyson v Staffing Etc.**  
**(Investigator V'Hesspa Glenn)**

**Panel Members: Commissioner Sadler as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Oduyebo; Commissioner Johnson as alternate.**

A scheduling order for this matter has been issued. Hearing dates are March 9, 2021 and March 11, 2021.

**HRC Case No.: HRC19-0301**  
**EEOC Case No.: 531-2018-02758**

**(Investigator Caitlin Mohler)**  
**Joseph Watts, Sr. v Prince George's County Department of Corrections**

**Panel Members: Commissioner Price-Carter as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Bryant, with Commissioner Johnson serving as alternate.**

Commissioner Sadler recused herself from this matter. A motion of dismissal was before the Commission. This case was addressed during closed agenda.

**FEPA Charge No.: HRC20-0322**  
**EEOC Case No.: 531-2020-00697**

**Reddick v DC Tours & Transportation**  
**Panel members: Commissioner Green as Chair, Commissioner Woolfolk; Commissioner Oduyebo; Vice-Chair Proctor as alternate.**

A scheduling order for this matter is pending. The Chair provided an update. Commissioner Green is not able to serve as Chair. The Chair asked Commissioner Woolfolk if he would be willing to serve as Panel Chair. Commissioner Woolfolk agreed.

**The new panel is: Secretary Woolfolk as Panel Chair, Commissioner Green, Commissioner Oduyebo; Vice-Chair Proctor as alternate.**

7. **CASES READY FOR DECISION - NONE**
8. **HEARING PANEL UPDATES – NONE**
9. **CASE UPDATE – NONE**

10. **ATTENDANCE RECORD** – Attached

11. **NEW BUSINESS** - NONE

12. **OLD BUSINESS** - NONE

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021.

14. **CLOSED SESSION** – Commissioner Bryant moved to go to closed session; Commissioner Green – Seconded. By unanimous vote the Commissioners moved to closed session under general provision section 3-305(b), to consult with Counsel and to comply with a specific statutory or judicially imposed requirement to prevent public disclosure of a specific matter. At Commission moved to closed session at 5:57 pm. Back at 7:09

Summary of closed session

**Motion to Dismiss**

**HRC19-0301**

**EEOC 531-2018-02758**

Commissioner Sadler recused herself.

Commission approved the ED’s decision to dismiss the case by unanimous vote less recusal.

**Certification for Public Hearing**

**HRC19-0605**

**EEOC 531-2019-00914**

This matter was certified for public hearing by unanimous vote.

**Panel Members: Commissioner Price-Carter as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Bryant, with Commissioner Johnson serving as alternate.**

**HRC20-0304**

**531-2019-00276**

This matter was certified for public hearing by unanimous vote.

**Panel members: Commissioner Howard as Panel Chair; Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Gutierrez as alternate.**

**Appeals**

**HRC20-0501**

**531-2020-01270**

The Executive Director's decision was upheld by unanimous vote.

**HRC19-0910**

**EEOC 438-2019-01539**

Commissioner Sadler was recused.

The Executive Director's decision was upheld by unanimous vote, less recusal.

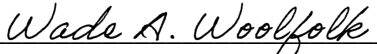
**HRC19-1005**

**EEOC 12H-2020-00004**

Commissioner Sadler was recused.

The Executive Director's decision was upheld by unanimous vote, less recusal.

15. **ADJOURNMENT** – 7:23 pm

  
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Commissioner Woolfolk  
Secretary