

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 28, 2019

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

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Nora Eidelman (Chairperson)
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Green
Wendi Howard
Sylvia Johnson
Johnathan Medlock
Ademola Oduyebo
Charlene Proctor
Joseph Reed
Felicia Lasley Sadler
Wade Woolfolk

Kim Kendrick, Counsel to the Commission

EXCUSED:

Andrea Price-Carter

STAFF:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – Chairperson Nora Eidelman called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda – the agenda was adopted as written by unanimous vote.
3. Approval of Minutes – the minutes from the September 23, 2019 Commission meeting were adopted by unanimous vote.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Eidelman provided some background information about herself to the Commissioners, explaining that she had come to the United States from Paraguay more than 30 years ago. She currently works for a non-profit that provides legal services to low-income residents of the County and she gave a brief overview of that agency. She

shared that she had recently been interviewed by CTV County TV to discuss the Human Relations Commission.

Chair Eidelman also informed the Commissioners that Commissioner MaKelia Mitchell had unfortunately had to resign from the Commission due to some family responsibilities. She noted that Commissioner Price-Carter was excused from the meeting.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **Executive Director** thanked those Commissioners who had attended the October 3rd community introduction to the Prince George's County LGBTQ Outreach Team. Over the past weekend, the HRC held a Spanish-language training on the intersection of human trafficking and domestic violence. She said it was a good first step and there are a lot of ideas about where to go next.

She recently attended a meeting of the Maryland Association of Human Rights Agencies (MAHRA); there are proposed Commissioner training dates on November 26 and December 3rd in Howard County. The training will include Discrimination 101; rights, responsibilities, duties; an opportunity for Commissioners to talk and share ideas. She asked the Commissioners to let the Clerk know by the end of the week if they would be able to attend that training. The Clerk said she would email all of the Commissioners on the matter the following day.

6. NOTICE OF INTENT TO CERTIFY – NONE

7. CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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)

Commissioner Proctor as Panel Chair, Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Bryant. Commissioner Johnson volunteered to serve as Panel Chair. The Clerk and Counsel will work the Panel Chair to develop a scheduling order in the matter.

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: Commissioner Medlock as Chair, Commissioner Sadler, Commissioner Green; Commissioner Price-Carter as alternate. Procedural discussion between panel members, Commissioners, Chair, and Counsel regarding matter and suggestion Commissioner Sadler serve as Panel Chair. The members of the hearing panel remain the same, with **Commissioner Sadler as**

Chair; Commissioner Medlock; Commissioner Green; Commissioner Price-Carter as alternate.

There was a pending Request for Review of the Commission's Order filed by the Respondent. After discussion and closed session:

Commissioner Medlock - Moved to deny the request from the Respondent.

Commissioner Sadler – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the Respondent's request was denied.

8. APPEAL HEARING – NONE

9. CASES READY FOR DECISION - NONE

10. HEARING PANEL UPDATES - NONE

11. CASE UPDATE

HRC Case No.: HRC17-0804

EEOC Case No.: 12H-2017-00049

Darryl Green v Verizon Maryland, LLC

(Investigator V'Hesspa Glenn)

A petition for judicial review was filed in Circuit Court by Verizon Maryland. Oral arguments are scheduled for October 30, 2019.

The Clerk noted that the matter was presented to the Commission for their information.

The Commission had made a final order in the matter in favor of the Complainant and the Respondent filed a petition for judicial review. She said she would be in attendance on October 30th and would update the Commissioners at the November meeting.

12. ATTENDANCE RECORD – attached.

The Commission took a break from the meeting at this juncture to receive Ethics Training from Glenn Ivey, Esq.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Officers

I. Secretary – Candidates: Joseph Reed

The Chair invited any nominations from the floor. There were none. The Chair invited Commissioner Reed to speak for up to 60 seconds; he provided a brief introduction. The Clerk distributed ballots and received them confidentially. The Clerk also noted that she would be casting a ballot on behalf of Commissioner Price-Carter.

II. Vice- Chair – Candidates: Johnathan Medlock, Charlene Proctor

The Chair invited any nominations from the floor. There were none. The Chair invited, going by alphabetical order, first Commissioner Medlock and then Commissioner Proctor, to speak for 60 seconds. They each provided a brief introduction. The Clerk distributed ballots and received them confidentially. The Clerk again cast a ballot on behalf of Commissioner Price-Carter.

The Clerk then counted the ballots.

Secretary – 12 out of 12 ballots cast for Commissioner Reed.

Vice-Chair – 8 ballots were cast for Commissioner Medlock; 4 ballots were cast for Commissioner Proctor.

The Commission welcomed Commissioner Reed as its new Secretary and Commissioner Medlock as its new Vice-Chair.

14. **OLD BUSINESS**

The Ad-Hoc Group assigned to review Commissioner Medlock's Mental Health Collaborative proposal announced they were ready to present. Discussion regarding process for distributing materials to Commissioners seven days in advance of meeting so Commissioners have time to review and the need for agenda items to be received by and through the Chair.

15. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

16. **CLOSED SESSION**

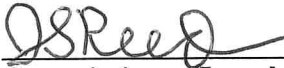
By unanimous vote, the Commission entered closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and to comply with the confidentiality provision of Division 12 which prevents public disclosure of particular matters.

Upon return from closed session:

In the matter of: **HRC19-0510**

By unanimous vote, the subpoena request was approved.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting officially adjourned at 8:48 pm.



Commissioner Joseph Reed
Secretary



Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission