

Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

Monday, April 27, 2020
Telephonic Meeting of the
Prince George's County
Human Relations Commission

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Nora Eidelman (Chairperson)
Johnathan Medlock (Vice-Chairperson)
Joseph Reed (Secretary)
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Green
Wendi Howard
Sylvia Johnson
Ademola Oduyebo
Andrea Price-Carter
Felicia Lasley Sadler
Wade Woolfolk

Kim Kendrick, Counsel to the Commission

Excused:

Charlene Proctor

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm. The Chair reminded everyone to identify themselves when they want to ask a question and reminded those present to mute their phone. Roll call of those present.
2. Adopt Agenda. By unanimous vote, the agenda was adopted as written.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **February 24, 2020** Commission Meeting. By unanimous vote the minutes were adopted as written.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Eidelman greeted the Commissioners. She said she knew they had heard frequently, as she had, that we are living in unprecedented times, and we really are. Each of us personally may be facing uncertainty, acknowledging that she was. She expressed

concern about her family in South America. She closed with promising to be brief on the call in order to be respectful of everyone's time.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director acknowledged everyone's time and thanked the Commissioners for still doing the work of the Commission. She noted operational changes in order to comply with the State's and the County's orders. HRC has still participated in outreach since confined to our houses. She highlighted a community conversation through library program, book discussions, and their Authors for Truth series, in which we were participants rather than sponsors. She told them about the HRC's upcoming "What if I Say The Wrong Thing" discussion with the library on April 28th and our "When Hate Hits Home" story-telling discussion with Joe's on the 30th. She also spoke about the new HRC initiative Turbo Talks – 90 second talks. She said that although our agency has participated in IAOHRA conference planning we have not yet heard official word on if it will be canceled.

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: Commissioner 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. Due to the health crisis, these hearings were postponed to dates to be determined.

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. New dates are pending. Due to the health crisis, this hearing will be scheduled at a later date.

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 Medlock, Commissioner Oduyabo; Commissioner Howard as alternate.

A scheduling order for this matter is pending. Dates will be determined once health crisis has passed.

7. APPEAL HEARING – NONE

8. CASES READY FOR DECISION – NONE

9. HEARING PANEL UPDATES – NONE

10. CASE UPDATE – NONE

11. ATTENDANCE RECORD – Attached

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Draft SOPs – Commissioner Reed.** Commissioner Reed gave a presentation on the work he did develop the Draft SOPs. He had reached out to other Commissions in neighboring jurisdictions, including the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. The Chair and Vice-Chair thanked Commissioner Reed for his work. Discussion on the helpfulness of this work and some suggestions, including that Commissioners putting proposals before the Commission may find including data and statistics helpful as additional information available will help fellow Commissioners who will be voting on the matter. Additional suggestion of adding details in the Commissioner Approval Process about what should be included in terms of data.
- Commissioners who would like to provide written comments were asked to provide them to Commissioner Reed by Friday, May 8th, 2020. Commissioner Reed provided his email address and the Clerk also noted that emails could be sent to forward to Commissioner Reed.

13. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2020. *NOTE that the May meeting is held on the third, rather than the fourth, Monday of the month due to the Memorial Day holiday.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Bryant – Moved to go into Closed session.
Commissioner Oduyebo – Seconded.
By unanimous vote, the meeting went into closed session.

Upon return from closed session:

HRC Case No.:HRC18-1005

EEOC Charge No.: 12H-2019-00005

Commissioner Sadler recused herself.

Vice-Chair Medlock – Moved to accept the recommendation of the executive director to dismiss the complaint with prejudice due to settlement.

Commissioner Bryant – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the Motion passed and the case is dismissed with prejudice due to settlement.

HRC Case No.: HRC19-0305

EEOC Case No.:531-2018-03259

Commissioner Oduyebo – Moved to accept the recommendation of the executive director to dismiss the complaint with prejudice due to settlement.

Commissioner Bryant – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the Motion passed and the case is dismissed with prejudice due to settlement.

HRC Case No.: HRC18-1006

EEOC Case No.:531-2018-01190

Vice-Chair Medlock abstained.

Commissioner Green – Moved that the action of the Executive Director be upheld and the case stand dismissed.

Commissioner Johnson – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, less abstention, the Motion passed and the action of the Executive Director is upheld and the case is dismissed.

HRC Case No.: HRC19-0402

EEOC Case No.:12H-2019-00020

Commissioner Howard recused herself.

Commissioner Sadler – Moved that the action of the Executive Director be overruled and the case remanded back to make additional findings of fact for limited purposed of interviewing the witness that identified to the Commission but was not interviewed.

Commissioner Bryant – Seconded the Motion.

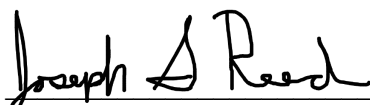
By unanimous vote, the Motion passed and the case is remanded back for further findings of fact.

16. ADJOURNMENT

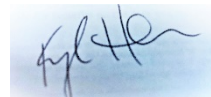
Commissioner Medlock – Moved that the meeting is adjourned.

Commissioner Bryant – Second.

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.



Commissioner Joseph Reed
Secretary



Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission