

Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

Monday, September 28, 2020

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

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

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

Kim Kendrick, Counsel to the Commission

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

Guests:

Keith Merkey

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:36.
2. Adopt Agenda – Commissioner Proctor – Motion to adopt; Commissioner Woolfolk – Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the agenda was adopted as written.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **August 24, 2020** Meeting. Commissioner Bryant – Motion to adopt; Commissioner Johnson– Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the minutes were adopted as written.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Eidelman noted that it was now one year that the Commissioners had all been serving together and thanked the Commissioners for all of their work. The Chair welcomed Keith Merkey from the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **Executive Director** also thanked the Commissioners for all of their efforts and service of the last year, noting that fully half of the year had been done during the pandemic, making things a little bit more difficult, and so thanked them again for their work. She reviewed recently held and upcoming events by the office, including upcoming human trafficking training with the school partners. She reminded the Commissioners that Division 12 had come from the Office of Law and was now with County Council.

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. No update at this time.

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. No update at this time.

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.

The Chair asked Commissioner Howard, previously alternate, to serve on the panel in the place of former Commissioner Medlock and asked Commissioner Johnson to serve as alternate.

A scheduling order for this matter is pending. No further update at this time.

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. Nominations for October Elections.

The nominations before the Commission were, for the position of Vice-Chair:

- i. Commissioner Proctor
- ii. Commissioner Reed
- iii. Commissioner Sadler

Commissioner Sadler respectfully withdrew her name from consideration for the position of Vice-Chair.

The nominations before the Commission were, for the position of Secretary:

- i. Commissioner Reed
- ii. Commissioner Woolfolk

Commissioner Reed respectfully withdrew his name from consideration for the position of Secretary.

13. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs)

Secretary Reed explained some changes had been made to the draft SOPs and the SOPs will be sent back to the committee for further work. He hoped they would be sent for review by the whole Commission and a vote by next meeting or as near to it as possible.

14. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2020.

15. **CLOSED SESSION** – Commissioner Sadler – Moved to go into Closed Session.

Commissioner Price-Carter – Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, less abstentions, 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, Secretary Reed provided the following:

HRC Case No.: HRC20-0406

Motion to Dismiss Due to Settlement

Commissioner Sadler – Moved to Dismiss the matter due to settlement.

Commissioner Green – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the case was dismissed due to settlement.

HRC19-0102

Request for Certification for Public Hearing

Commissioner Proctor – Moved to Certify the matter for public hearing.

Commissioner Bryant – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, the case was certified to public hearing and a hearing panel set.

Commissioner Green as Panel Chair, Commissioner Woolfolk, Commissioner Oduyebo, with Commissioner Proctor serving as alternate.

HRC19-0301

Request for Certification for Public Hearing

Commissioner Sadler recused.

Commissioner Green – Moved to Certify the matter for public hearing.

Commissioner Price-Carter – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, less abstention, the case was certified for public hearing and a hearing panel set.

Commissioner Price-Carter as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Bryant, and Commissioner Johnson as alternate.

HRC20-0201

Appeal


Commissioners Howard and Johnson recused.

Commissioner Proctor – Moved to deny the appeal due to lack of timeliness.

Commissioner Sadler – Seconded the Motion.

By unanimous vote, less abstentions, the appeal was denied.

16. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.



Commissioner Reed
Secretary



Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission