

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
DOVER, DELAWARE**

**THURSDAY, April 11, 2013**

The April monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Calvin Christopher at 7:15 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Erica Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Wallace Dixon, Steven Elkins, Earnest Gulab, Marian Harris, Doug James, Prameela Kaza, Wayne Keller, Gail Launay, Olga Ramirez, Peter Schott, Robert Watson and Jamie Wolfe. Deputy Attorney General Barbara Gadbois was also present.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Commissioners, Diaz Bonville, Bernice Edwards, Lois Myers, Eli Ramos, and Rosemarie Williams were excused. Commissioners Jamaal Bivens, Daniel Bungy, Whittona Burrell, Pamela Davis, and Lorenzo Murdaugh were unexcused.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The March, 2013 minutes were submitted and approved at the Full Commission Meeting.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

No members of the public present.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Executive Committee Appointments, Assignments and Reassignments for sub-committees**

- Chairperson Christopher asked the Commission what is going to be the next steps in several issues that have been raised to the Commission such as the lynching incident, the gaming industry letters and the Christina School District letters. He directed these questions to the proper committees for their response.
- Chairperson Christopher informed the Commission that they have been asked by Community Legal Aid Society, (CLASI) to initiate a housing complaint in a subsidized housing community with regards to a person with a disability.
- Chairperson Christopher reminded the Commission that this will be Deputy Attorney Barbara Gadbois last meeting as she is retiring. He also stated that he and Romona are in contact with the Governor's office for her replacement for the Division and the Commission.
- He also reported that Commissioner Myers is battling an extremely serious health condition and recommended to the Commission that since her term will be expiring this December 2013, to leave her term active until expiration.
- Chairperson Christopher acknowledged that along with himself, Commissioners Watson and Chui attended HOND's Annual Law Forum on April 19, 2013.
- Recently Chairperson Christopher was approached with the information that possibly source of income could become one of Delaware's protected classes and the Division could eventually enforce that class. He suggested that as a Commission, some research needs to be done as to the amount of involvement and what additional authorities could be involved as well.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Romona asked the CRC Committee how much they are willing to commit to doing outreach and education, building relationships within the communities and the responsibility of monitoring.
- Romona reminded the Commission that race issues are currently happening in our school districts and asked the Commission if any ideas to help show public awareness of the racism. Commission Schott suggested a creation of a task force to investigate the issues surrounding the racism in schools.
- Romona thanked Vince for attending an affirmatively further fair housing training. While he was there, a case in Zanesville, OH was discussed and after further discussion, Vince contacted the law firm and requested that someone from the law firm speak at our conference and shows the video. Romona sent the link to all Commissioners and Division staff.
- Romona mentioned a few upcoming events. April 27, 2013 is Stand against Racism Day and encouraged everyone to support this event. April 26, 2013 is HOND's annual fair housing luncheon and informed the Commission that the Division purchased a table and they were welcome to attend.
- Romona briefly discussed the possibility of adding source of income and stated that her view point is the limited staff to take on more cases and a more positive concern with the fiscal standpoint.
- Romona commended Investigator Ines Hungria on her multiple trainings throughout the state and informed the Commission that the Division alone has conducted over 30 trainings this year!
- Romona also stated that she is extremely excited about this year's fair housing conference and looks to achieve a high record of attendees.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Awareness: (Chairperson, Doug James)**

- Commissioner James informed the Commission that Vice Chairperson Launay will be conducting a DE Radio interview on April 15, 2013. Commissioner Elkins will be conducting a Comcast Newsmakers interview on April 19, 2013 as well as one of the Division's Investigator Nick Mirro in the afternoon on the same day. He will inform the Commission when the taping will be shown.
- Commissioner James also gave much appreciation to Chairperson Christopher and Vice Chairperson Launay for their dedication and outstanding performance with regards to all of the work that is put in to Comcast Newsmakers.

### **Legislative Committee: (Commissioner, Jamie Wolfe)**

- Director Fullman stated that the legislative committee will hope to be looking into possibly acquiring source of income as a protected class. She also informed the Commission that the City of Wilmington already enforces source of income.
- Commissioner Elkins notified the Commission that on April 11, 2013 HB75 was heard by the Governor and several other elected officials and will be debated on April 17, 2013 and voted on April 23, 2013. Currently HB75 has 23 sponsors!
- Commissioner Wolfe is drafting a letter of support for the HB75 and will be sending via email for the Division staff to make copies and she will distribute at Legislation Hall. Commissioner Wolfe expressed her dedication and several other agencies that support it and believes that the Commission and the Division should be behind this as well.
- Commissioner Wolfe also reported that Legislation Day was completely filled but at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session, we can be present without a table.

### **Community Response Committee: (Chok-Fun Chui, Chairperson)**

- Commissioner Chui stated that they have developed a timeline to keep track of attendance of the Commission.

- Commissioner Chui informed the Commission that the gaming letters were mailed by Barb H. and hopefully the information will be provided soon.
- Barb Haigh formatted and mailed out the Christina School District letters.
- Commissioner Chui stated that Barb H. will be mailing cards to Commissioner Maihoff and Commissioner Bonville due to their illness.
- Commissioner Ramirez has requested to have a standard letter to be developed when a Commissioner becomes ill.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Committee: (Gail Launay, Chairperson)**

- The GCEEO meeting will be held on April 25, 2013 at the Haslet Armory in Dover, DE.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Dixon reported that he has requested of the City of Dover and the Dover Human Relations Commission to go back and review the mission statements.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Christopher stated that a more formal event will be planned for Deputy Attorney Barbara Gadbois' retirement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 9:10 p.m.