STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

**FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

DOVER, DELAWARE

**THURSDAY, November 14 2013**

The November 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, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

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**Attendance:**

**Commission Members Present:** Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Erica Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Wallace Dixon, Bernice Edwards, Stephen Elkins, Earnest Gulab, Doug James, Prameela Kaza, Gail Launay, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Peter Schott, Misty Seemans, Richard Senato, Robert Watson Jr., and Rosemarie Williams.

**Commission Members not present:** Commissioners Marian Harris (unexcused), Wayne Keller (unexcused), Nancy Maihoff (unexcused), and Jaimie Wolfe (unexcused)

**Staff from Division of Human Relations Office:** Romona Fullman, Kelly Fox

**Members of the public present:** Rose Mary Hendrix, Roy Sudler Jr., and G. Mar Gynn.

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**I Call to Order**

 The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Calvin Christopher at 7:09 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

**II Approval of Minutes**The minutes for the September SHRC meeting were submitted and approved

**III Members of the Public Present**

Chairperson Christopher thanked Rose Mary Hendrix and Roy Sudler Jr. for coming.

 No expressions were made.

**IV Chair’s Report- Calvin Christopher Reported**

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| ***Topic / Discussion*** | ***Actions to be Taken*** | ***Leaders*** | ***Due Date*** |
| FOIA – Chairperson Christopher discussed the importance of following FOIA guidelines. Indicated this item will remain on the agenda.  |  |  |  |
| Analysis of Impediments (AI) – Chairperson Christopher suggested focus on increasing and enhancing opportunities for Fair Housing education, outreach, training and real estate testing. He feels that the April Fair Housing conference is an opportunity to achieve this. Romona Fullman asked if he was looking for a Committee to be formed for the April Fair Housing Conference. He indicated that he was looking for involvement in the planning process with a focused strategy. Chair Christopher asked that Commissioners look for inappropriate advertising.Expanding participation/representation on Boards and Commissions is another opportunity.  | Look for inappropriate advertising. | All Commissioners | Ongoing |
| Commissioner Committee Assignments – Chairperson Christopher is making the recommending that Commissioner Seemans is placed on the Legislative Committee and Commissioner Senato is placed on the GCEEOC. Commissioner Keller is currently not assigned to a Committee. Chairperson Christopher indicated he received an email from Commissioner Keller that is unclear on intent.  | Follow up with Commissioner Keller for clarification. | Chairperson Christopher |  |
| Delaware Hispanic Commission complaint against WGMD – Chairperson Christopher has been in contact with the DE Hispanic Commission. They have had a meeting with representatives from WGMD. WGMD will be writing a letter of apology.A conversation occurred between the Commission members concerning broadcasting on WGMD. Chairperson Christopher suggested that the Public Awareness Committee come up with a strategy for this matter and come back with a recommendation.  | Strategy to be developed on how to address WGMD.  | Public Awareness Committee |  |
| Islamic Society of Delaware Act of Vandalism – Chairperson Christopher commended Division Staff and Commissioner Awad for the quick response to the situation. Perpetrators have been found. Asked for input from Commissioner Awad. Commissioner Awad thanked the Commissioners and the Division staff for the support given following the incident.Romona Fullman discussed the proposed Interfaith Proclamation rough draft prepared by Knight Sor, who is with the US Department of Justice, to be considered. It was sent electronically to the Commissioners on November 7. Chair Christopher recommended the Commission embraces this. Asked for opposition. None received.  |  |  |  |
| December Commission Meeting – State of the Commission address will be done by Chairperson Christopher. During the address he would like to highlight Committees accomplishments and discuss each Committees path forward.  | Chairperson Christopher asked for Committees to submit accomplishments for 2013 and plans for 2014 to him. | Committee Chairs | 2 weeks from today. |

**V Director’s Report**

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| ***Topic / Discussion*** | ***Actions to be Taken*** | ***Leaders*** | ***Due Date*** |
| Romona Fullman will forward the Director’s report electronically. | Director’s report to be sent electronically. | Romona Fullman | Following meeting |
| Training – National Fair Housing Alliance Training – Free three 90 minute webinars available until January 31, 2014 online. Division has heard requests for training. A training orientation is in development.  | Take opportunity to participate in webinars. | All Commissioners | By January 31, 2014 |
| Administration – Internal budget hearing was held today. Next hearing will be the Joint Finance Commission hearing. Romona discussed the need for Commissioners to weigh in and participate in the hearing process to discuss the importance of our work.  |  |  |  |
| HUD Grants – Division has received notice that the three of the partnership grants proposals have been approved for funding total approximately $200,000. Most funds have been approved for work in Sussex County.  |  |  |  |

**VI Committee Reports**

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| ***Topic / Discussion*** | ***Actions to be Taken*** | ***Leader*** | ***Due Date*** |
| Public Awareness Committee – Will develop strategy to address issues related to WGMD. Commissioner Seemans offered to look at blog weekly and report back to Commissioner James.  | Strategy to be developed on how to address WGMD. Review WGMD blog and report to Commissioner James. | Public Awareness CommitteeCommissioner Seemans | Ongoing |
| Legislative Committee - No report provided. Commissioner Schott asked that the Legislative Committee look at the source of income discrimination legislation.  |  |  |  |
| Community Response Committee – Commissioner Chui indicated the Committee met with Rose Mary Hendrix and Roy Sudler Jr. during their meeting this evening to discuss their applications for the Commission. Chairperson Christopher thanked Ms. Hendrix and Mr. Sudler Jr. for their participation this evening and their interest in serving on the Commission. He advised that the applications will be sent back to the Governor’s office for review and determination. The committee will hold a separate meeting, via teleconference, to discuss the path forward and accomplishments for the December Commission meeting.  | Meeting to be scheduled | Commissioner Chui | Within the week |
| Governors Council of Equal Opportunity – Commissioner Launay advised that at this time the Committee is in a retooling and refining process. They are in the process of planning another conference. Next meeting is November 21st 9am at the Haslet Armory. |  |  |  |

**VII Old Business**

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| ***Topic / Discussion*** | ***Actions to be Taken*** | ***Leader*** | ***Due Date*** |
| No old business.  |  |  |  |

**VIII New Business**

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| ***Topic / Discussion*** | ***Actions to be Taken*** | ***Leader*** | ***Due Date*** |
| No new business.  |  |  |  |

**IX Good News**

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| ***Topic / Discussion*** | ***Actions to be Taken*** | ***Leader*** | ***Due Date*** |
| Commissioner Elkins got married.  |  |  |  |
| Commissioner Launay got married. |  |  |  |

**XI Meeting Adjourned**

 The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.