

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2013

The January monthly meeting of the Delaware Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference at the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, in Conference Room A, in Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Calvin Christopher at 7:08 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Erica Caesar, Chok-fun Chui, Pamela Davis, Wallace Dixon, Bernice Edwards, Earnest Gulab, Marian Harris, Doug James, Prameela Kaza, Gail Launay, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Eli Ramos, Peter Schott, Deputy Attorney General Barbara Gadbois was present at the meeting.

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Commissioners Nathan Barnett, Jamaal Bivens, Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Stephen Elkins, Wayne Keller Rosemarie Williams, Jamie Wolfe were excused. Commissioners Daniel Bungy, Lois Myers, Robert Watson were unexcused.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The November, 2012 minutes were submitted and approved at the Full Commission Meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Dr. Jahi Issa, Ph D. was present to express his concerns regarding possible hate crimes. Supervisor Vince Petroff has met with Dr. Issa a few times to discuss this incident and is determining how to proceed. Chairperson Christopher re-assured Dr. Issa that the Human Relations Commission is doing the investigation and we are not letting it slip.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Executive Committee Appointments, Assignments and Reassignments for sub-committees

- Chairperson Christopher wished everyone a Happy New Year!
- He also informed everyone that Commissioner Wolfe is currently in the hospital but is definitely in good spirits.
- He is in the process of making recommendations and encourages Commissioners to start assuming roles of the Chair to prepare for the future. Commissioner Christopher also informed the Commission that his term will be ended in 2015.
- January is Human Relations Awareness Month.
- February is Black History Month.
- Commissioner Williams's husband is out of surgery and is recovering.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Romona acknowledged that Barbara Haigh and Vince Petroff were present and thanked them both for attending.
- Director announced Investigator Raymond Paylor's retirement will be on January 25, 2013 and that we are expecting to have a luncheon for him on that day to be held in the Dover office.
- Romona mentioned that it is the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 2013 and that if we work together and have the courage we can all make a difference.

- Director Fullman deeply encouraged the Commission to attend the Joint Finance Committee meeting on February 12, 2013. This meeting is to determine the FY2014 budget.
- HB9 has passed one session and is up to vote on again in January, must pass two sessions.
- The alleged lynching incident is currently being investigated by the Division as to whether or not we have jurisdiction over the Equal Accommodations Complaint that was filed. Vince Petroff is working with the Dover Police to determine if this is a criminal act and if we aren't the correct agency, which one is. Wallace Dixon assured the Commission that the police department is still investigating the incident and the investigation is still ongoing. Barbara Gadbois also encouraged the Commission to take the lead on this as well as the Division by having 3-4 Commissioners to work with Vince on the investigation.
- Signs at a Milford school were noticed and taken down due to the fact that they were discriminatory. Romona suggested that as a Commission, we should take the lead to file a complaint with the Division.
- Director has been in contact with Margaret Reyes regarding whether or not state agencies that received federal funds have a LEP procedure and policy set in place. Discussions will happen later when Ms. Reyes becomes healthy.
- According to the executive order, any regulations need to be reviewed every 3 years. If they haven't it needs to have a hearing for the public to review and we fall under this category at this time. Each public hearing in each county will be posted on the public website.
- If you received an invitation from the Governor and are planning to attend, please contact them directly and not the office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Awareness: (Chairperson, Doug James)

- Comcast Newsmakers is scheduled for January 18, 2013 @ 1:40pm and 2:00pm. Doug requested the attendance of Calvin and asked Romona if she would in the future be interested in doing a session.
- Doug has suggested that we honor a Mr. Jim Cresson, a reporter for the Cape Gazette, who was killed in a car accident several years prior. He will present a few ideas at the February meeting.

Legislative Committee: (Director Fullman is reporting for Jamie Wolfe)

- We will develop formalized plans to discuss and comment on these legislation initiatives. One of the initiatives is putting together a strategy for the HB9 Felon voting rights bill
- We are looking at changing some of the enforcement procedures of EA Laws regarding ADA.

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

- This committee is looking to re-evaluate the members on the committee.
- The committee would like to send a letter to the casinos requesting updated information since the initial reports were collected back in 2009.
- Olga requested that a letter be sent to Jea Street regarding that we received the complaint, investigated it and then sent the information to the Governor or Secretary. Romona would like this issue to be tabled at another time.

Equal Employment Opportunity Committee: (Gail Launay, Chairperson)

- The GCEEO meeting will be held on January 24, 2013 at the Haslet Armory in Dover, DE. No specific agency will be reviewed at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS Doug requested that Erika get in touch with Bill Johnston so that maybe he could assist the commission with either his presence or a letter for the JFC meeting.

Bernice stated that on February 5, 2013 at FSCAA Jeff Morely who wrote, "Snow Storm in August," will be speaking from 5-6:30p.m.

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 9:16 p.m.