

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013**

The February 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Calvin Christopher at 7:09 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Commissioners, Jamaal Bivens, Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Chok-Fun Chui, Wallace Dixon, Stephen Elkins, Earnest Gulab, Marian Harris, Wayne Keller, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Peter Schott, Robert Watson, Jamie Wolfe and Deputy Attorney General Barbara Gadbois were present at the meeting.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Erica Caesar, Pamela Davis, Bernice Edwards, Doug James, Prameela Kaza, Gail Launay, Olga Ramirez, Rosemarie Williams were excused. Commissioners Daniel Bungy, Nathan Barnett, Lois Myers, Eli Ramos, were unexcused.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The January, 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 wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!
- He apologized to the Commission for not devoting enough time to the Commission and responsibilities due to his current employment.
- The annual Fair Housing conference is quickly approaching and Chairperson Christopher reminded the Commission of the short amount of staff the Division is currently operating on and that there's a possibility that the Division staff will need assistance from the Commissioners.
- Chairperson Christopher thanked the Commissioners and the Division for supporting and attending numerous Black History Month events and proclamation signings.
- He also reported that he recently taped a show on Comcast Newsmakers that focused on homelessness for vets and the population is on the rise and that he is in talks with HUD to possibly partnership with the Commission to host several outreach and education events.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Romona thanked the Commissioners that attended the JFC meeting and the League of Women's Voters meeting as well.
- Condolences to Commissioner Bivens in his loss.
- Condolences to Commissioner Keller in his loss.
- Congratulations to Commissioner Caesar in the birth of her son, Daniel Caesar.

- Romona stated that the victim in the alleged lynching incident should come forward and file a complaint to determine if he was discriminated against.
- The presentation and book signing, Snow Storm in August turned out to be a huge success as we co-sponsored the signing and approximately 75 people attended.
- Romona has suggested to the Commission that a training book be developed with regards to fair housing and equal accommodations to assist commissioners in the knowledge of sitting on hearing panels and to be trained to be a chair at a hearing. All commissioners need to feel comfortable.
- Commissioner Wolfe suggested that there should be a full commission training on how to speak to the legislators and suggested that there could be a legislative awareness day and possibly incorporate human relations awareness as well.
- The fair housing conference is quickly approaching and one of the topics for discussion is going to be focused around segregation as it is still prominent in the State of Delaware.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- Chairperson Christopher asked whether or not anything was done for Human Relations Awareness month in January and Romona stated that the commission was going to focus on Black History Month events.

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

- Commissioner Wolfe proposed a possible Legislation Day in the upcoming months and once a date is decided upon, she will need a response to everyone's availability if they can attend.
- She also informed the Legislative Committee that their meetings will resume back in Dover on Thursday's before the full commission meeting starting at 6:15p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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

- This committee is looking to put together a response to the Christina School District complaint.
- This committee is also looking to inquire about involvement with regards to the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education. They would like to hold meetings but would need to have positive involvement in doing this task as it is a huge responsibility. They are working on a proposed plan of action.
- Commissioner Maihoff stated that all the letters that were drafted have been sent and she has received the information requested from Delaware Park.

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

- The GCEO meeting will be held on February 21, 2013 at the Haslet Armory in Dover, DE. The Department of Homeland Security and the Delaware Police are the agencies that are being reviewed. Chairperson Christopher suggested that LEP be introduced into the workforce and be a part of employment reviews.

**OLD BUSINESS**           None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Chui extended happy and healthy wishes for the start of the Chinese New Year!

**ADJOURNMENT**       A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 8:12 p.m.