

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

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012

The May monthly meeting of the Delaware Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference at the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, 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 Commissioner Chok-Fun Chui at 6:44 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Jamaal Bivens, Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Erika Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Wallace Dixon, Stephen Elkins, Earnest Gulab, Marian Harris, Doug James, Wayne Keller, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Eli Ramos, Peter Schott, Robert Watson, Jr., and Jamie Wolfe were present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Vice-Chairperson Gail Launay and Commissioners Nathan Barnett, Bernice Edwards, Prameela Kaza, Lois Myers, and Rosemarie Williams were excused. Deputy Attorney General Barbara Gadbois was not present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairperson Christopher and Vice-Chairperson Launay were both absent; therefore, Commissioner Chui chaired the meeting. Commissioner Chui asked for approval of the April minutes. Commissioner Schott made a motion to accept the April minutes and Commissioner Elkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioner Chui explained that Investigator Hungria would be giving Fair Housing 101 training tonight. Director Fullman said the purpose of the training is to:

- Strengthen the enforcement of the law.
- Strengthen the Commission's capacity and competency in the law so they may do what they are assigned to do.
- Prepare the Commission for the education and outreach they participate in.

Competencies from this training:

- Protected classes that are covered
- Acts that are prohibited by the statute
- Various types of discrimination
- The complaint process

Yellow sheets were supplied in the folders to be used as 'calling cards' or talking points, as they relate to the fair housing laws.

Director Fullman explained the various materials in the handouts. She asked the Commission to look at the form titled, "Enabling Legislation for the State Human Relations Commission." She said section '3003' says in part, "The Commission shall be responsible for carrying out public information and education programs..." She encouraged the Commission to use the training to educate their communities, churches, associations, etc. with the support of Division staff. Commissioner Burrell asked if there were any notes associated with the PowerPoint that was being given and Director Fullman said a standard version could be developed for Commissioners.

(At this time the Fair Housing 101 training was given by Investigator Ines Hungria. Shirts were also handed out to Commissioners to be used for future education and outreach events.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Awareness: (Doug James, Chairperson)

- Delaware Beach Life magazine will be doing an article on former Commissioner Bill Johnston for the June issue.
- Commissioner James said the documentary on the Commission continues to move forward.

Legislative Committee: (Chairperson, Jamie Wolfe)

- SB185 has passed the Senate and is now in the House. This bill states that any State representative or employee that has direct contact with a legislator has to be a registered lobbyist. There were questions whether or not this affected the Commission (or anyone representing the State Human Relations Commission, such as the Director or Division staff), so the committee will look into it. Director Fullman said a copy of the bill can be sent to the Commission for review.
- Director Fullman said the issue of voting rights came up at the February Black History Month forum that was held by the Division in Wilmington. Because of this the Division has now committed to partnering with the ACLU, the Department of Justice and other organizations to hold a dialog about the issue. She said HB9 "eliminates the existing five-year waiting period before eligible felons who have fully discharged their sentences may have their voting right restored." Director Fullman said she will let everyone know when the dialog is scheduled.

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

No report given.

Equal Employment Opportunity Committee: (Gail Launay, Chairperson)

- Commissioner Schott said the Committee participated in a workshop on May 8th regarding 'Unconscious Bias'. He said Director Fullman was one of the presenters and he felt it was an incredible learning experience. Commissioner Dixon agreed.

The Commission thanked Investigator Hungria and commended her on the training she gave this evening. Director Fullman said there will be a continuing effort to have more training in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Dixon said his conference is scheduled for June. He welcomed the Commission's attendance and said he will forward information about the conference to them through email.

Commissioner James recommended a speech he saw on you-tube given by Reverend Dr. William Barber, A North Carolina minister. He said the speech was regarding an amendment proposed towards the constitution.

Commissioner Ramirez encouraged the Commissioners to call their congressional representatives regarding the reauthorization of the VAWA (Violence Against Women Act).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 9:05 p.m.