

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

THURSDAY, February 9, 2017

The February 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 Arts Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present Chairperson Calvin Christopher. Commissioners Jamaal Bivens, Diaz Bonville, Erica Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Earnest Gulab, Kerri Harris, Rose Mary Hendrix, Prameela Kaza, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Walter Smith Hr., Roy Sudler Jr., and Robert Watson Jr.. DAG Zoe Plerhoples.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Mashoor Awad (excused), Whittona Burrell (excused), Bernice Edwards (excused), Michael Harpe (excused), Jordan Hines (excused), Doug James (excused), Gail Launay-Tarlecki (excused), Janet Maull-Martin (excused), Rosemarie Williams (excused) and Delores Finger Wright (unexcused).

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Romona Fullman, Vincent Petroff and Kelly Fox.

Members of the public present: None.

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 5:35 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the January SHRC meeting were submitted. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Smith. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bonville. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

III Members of the Public Present

No expressions.

IV Chair's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Black History Month – Tabled for the Public Awareness Committee report.			
Commissioner Assignments / Vacancies– Chair Christopher reported he has reached out to Commissioners individually to discuss Committee assignments and realignments. Committee Chairs: Governor's Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee - Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki ; Community Response Committee - Commissioner Maihoff ; Legislative Committee - Commissioner Harpe ; Public Awareness Committee –Commissioner James will remain a contributing member, however, a new chair will be appointed.	Appoint Chair for Public Awareness Committee and review Committee assignments.	Chair Christopher	Prior to next meeting.
Joint Legislative Oversight & Sunset Review Committee (JLOSRC) – Chair Christopher reported he, Director Fullman, DAG Plerhoples participated in the recent JLOSC hearing. Commissioner James, Chui and Division Supervisor Vincent Petroff also attended. A copy of the PowerPoint presented at the hearing was given to Commissioners. Comments made at the hearing were summarized by those who attended. Information requested at the hearing will be gathered and submitted. The hearing to receive recommendations from the JLOSC is scheduled for March 28 th at noon in the JFC Hearing Room, Legislative Hall.	Schedule Ad Hoc Committee meeting Attend JLOSC Hearing	Chair Christopher Chair Christopher	To be determined March 28, 2017
Chair Christopher advised that roster reflecting recent Commissioner reappointments will be forwarded to the JLOSRC.	Send updated Roster to Julie Fedele	Kelly Brown	February 10, 2017

<p>Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) – Chair Christopher reported he has been asked to co-chair the DRJC. He is looking for the Commission to become a part of the collaborative. On the question of the process for the SHRC joining other groups, DAG Plerhoples advised that if the Commission is to be listed as a member of a group, a vote should be taken to approve/disapprove. Chair Christopher indicated this matter will be on the agenda for discussion at next month’s meeting.</p>	<p>Add to the March meeting agenda</p>		
<p>Governors Transition Plan– Chair Christopher is attempting to schedule a meeting with Governor Carney to discuss the Governors transition plan. One of the topics will be the Ivy Planning Group report and recommendations that were made.</p>	<p>Schedule a meeting with Governor Carney</p>	<p>Chair Christopher</p>	<p>Undefined</p>

V Director’s Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p>A printed version of the Director’s Report was distributed.</p>	<p>Send Director’s Report electronically.</p>	<p>Director Fullman</p>	<p>Following meeting</p>
<p>Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – Director Fullman stressed the importance of compliance with FOIA. Minutes should be published for every meeting takes place. If a meeting is an executive session meeting the minutes should reflect the meeting was called to order, roll call, that they entered executive session and adjournment.</p>	<p>Continue to follow FOIA guidelines for minutes</p>	<p>Committee Chairs</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Commissioner Maihoff inquired if this should be done retroactively. DAG Plerhoples indicated that she did not feel that was necessary, but follow this policy going forward.</p>			
<p>Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Hearing – Director Fullman reported that the JFC Hearing took place on January 31, 2017. There is a shortfall in the State’s budget. Staffing and funding are being reviewed to find savings. Commissioner Burrell did not have the opportunity to make her full statement at the JFC hearing because hearing was running behind.</p>			
<p>Joint Sunset Committee Review – Director Fullman thanked Commissioners James and Chui for attending the hearing.</p>			
<p>Ivy Planning Group Report – Director Fullman recommended Commissioners review the Ivy Planning report and recommendations and develop feedback and recommendations forward. A link for the report will be included in the electronic version of the Director’s Report.</p>	<p>Review Ivy Planning Group report and be prepared to make recommendations.</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>Undefined</p>
<p>Delaware Civil Rights Coalition - Director Fullman thanked Commissioners Harris, Elkins and Investigator Claudia Sosa-Ducote’ for their participation in the press conference on January 19th announcing the formation of the Delaware Civil Rights Coalition. Additional information is included in the Director’s Report.</p> <p>A question was raised if there is a need to take a vote when Commissioners are attending a meeting to keep a pulse on the situation or when they are joining a</p>			

<p>group. DAG Plerhopes advised if Commissioner are participating as an individual a vote is not needed. However if they are representing the position of the Commission or joining a group as the Commission then a vote should be taken at a public meeting.</p> <p>A discussion took place that Commissioners will continue to attend meetings and partner with the group but the Commission will not join the coalition at this point.</p>			
<p>Black History Month Event – Director Fullman advised there is an event, <i>Delaware Votes</i>, at the Public Archives in Dover on Monday, February 13. Commissioner attendance is encouraged. Details to be sent following the meeting by Director Fullman.</p>	<p>Attend Black History Month event at the Public Archives.</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>January 13, 2017</p>

VI Committee Reports

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p><u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – Chair Christopher advised following a discussion Commissioner James will remain a contributing member of Committee, however his schedule does not allow him to serve as chair of this Committee. A new chair will be appointed.</p>	<p>Appoint new Chair</p>	<p>Chair Christopher</p>	
<p><u>Legislative Committee (LEG)</u> – No Committee report. Following January’s meeting Kelly Brown reserved a table for a display on May 3, 2017 to increase awareness of the function and services of DHR/SHRC among legislators and staffers. Director Fullman</p>	<p>Develop a table concept</p> <p>Staff table at Legislative Hall</p>	<p>Director Fullman</p> <p>All available Commissioners</p>	<p>Undefined.</p> <p>May 3, 2017</p>

<p>advised that a display will be developed. Commissioners are needed to staff table.</p>			
<p><u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported that 2 weeks from tomorrow Commissioner Chui and herself will meet with Coalition of Wesley and DSU to develop an event similar to the Film and Discussion that was held at Wesley College. An additional meeting is scheduled to discuss further.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff reported that the CRC met this evening to revise the Committee’s roles in the bylaws. Additional details to be shared at next month’s meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff is in the process of recruiting Fran Riddle to the Commission. Additional details will be shared when available.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff will be attending a performance of “White Man on a Bus” next Wednesday. She suggested Commissioners attend a performance if they are available. There will be a community discussion following the performance. Commissioner Maihoff plans on taking information on the Commission for distribution. Commissioner Ramirez advised she will be attending a performance also.</p> <p>An interview is to be scheduled with James Higgins who has expressed interest in joining the Commission.</p>			
<p><u>Governor’s Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEO)</u> – Chair Christopher reported he</p>			

attended the GCEEO meeting on February 1, 2017. Director Fullman was also present. A majority of the meeting was discussing the Ivy Planning Group report and their recommendations. Next month's meeting will focus on the Governor's response to the report.			
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VII Old Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
None			

VIII New Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
None			

IX Good News

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
None			

XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:04 p.m. by Chair Christopher.