

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

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 SOS Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Calvin Christopher. Commissioners Jamaal Bivens, Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Erica Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Bernice Edwards, Earnest Gulab, Kerri Harris, Prameela Kaza, Gail Launay-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Walter Smith Jr., Robert Watson Jr., Rosemarie Williams and Dolores Finger Wright. DAG Carla Jarosz.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Douglas James (excused) and Roy Sudler Jr. (unexcused).

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

Members of the public present: Sara Fuller, Teresa Ridgeway, Elva Allen, Darryl Burton, C. Claudia Waters and Melanie Ross Levin.

Invited Guest Presenter: Acting DHR Secretary Sandra Johnson

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 5:40 p.m. followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October SHRC meeting were submitted. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Olga Ramirez. The motion was seconded by Prameela Kaza. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

III Members of the Public Present:

Sara Fuller appeared before the Commission to reiterate comments made at the October meeting regarding a racially offensive sign posted by students in the Caesar Rodney School District and regarding discrimination in state government agencies. Commissioner Maihoff will contact her to schedule a meeting.

Claudia Waters appeared before the Commission to express concern over discriminatory practices at Carver Academy in the Indian River School District. Commissioner Nancy Maihoff provided contact information for Ms. Waters to contact her.

Sandra Johnson, Acting Secretary, DE Department of Human Resources, appeared before the Commission at the request of the Chair to share her vision and plans for the newly created state agency and to participate in a brief Q & A. The Q & A included Commissioners and members of the public present.

Chair Calvin Christopher thanked Ms. Johnson and the members of the public who participated in the meeting this evening. He indicated that he would invite the Chief Diversity Officer to a Commission meeting once the position has been filled.

IV Chair’s Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p><u>Update Joint Legislative Oversight Sunset Committee (JLOSC) Recommendations</u> – Chair Calvin Christopher reported that via early retirements and resignations the Commission membership has been reduced in accordance with the JLOSC recommendations.</p> <p>Efforts continue to identify a location in Sussex County for videoconferencing as recommended by the JLOSC recommendations. Director Fullman will follow-up with Commissioner Bernice Edwards regarding the possibility of using the First State Community Action Agency in Georgetown.</p>			
<p>Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative– Chair Calvin Christopher shared information about the mission and purpose of the DE Racial Justice Collaborative. He is an individual member and serves co-chair. There was discussion regarding the Commission joining as a corporate member at \$25 per year. An initial motion was made by Commissioner Robert Watson for the Commission to become a Corporate member of the Collaborative. The motion was amended (and accepted) to grant the Commission’s corporate representative the authority to act on behalf of the Commission on issues in line with the Commission’s mission. Commissioner Robert Watson</p>	<p>Become a Corporate member of the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative.</p>	<p>Undefined</p>	<p>Undefined</p>

seconded the motion. Follow discussion a vote was taken, no opposition, motion carries.			
Dover Human Relations Commission– Chair Calvin Christopher shared that Commissioner Nancy Maihoff has volunteered to serve as the SHRC liaison with the Dover Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Nancy Maihoff reported that she would be contacting the Dover Human Relations Commission tomorrow to obtain the meeting frequency.	Serve a SHRC liaison with the Dover Human Relations Commission	Commissioner Nancy Maihoff	On-going

V Director's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Director's report to be sent electronically.	Send Director's report electronically	Kelly Brown	Undefined.
Director Romona Fullman thanked Commissioners Chok-Fun Chui and Earnest Gulab for attending the Budget Hearing on November 6 th . There is another opportunity for Commissioners to address the Joint Finance Committee in February or March.			
Director Romona Fullman requested Committees look at collaborations and other opportunities to participate.			
In observance of National Homeless Awareness Month and National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, the Division of Human Relations is partnering with Her Story Ensemble's Community Empowerment Institute for a statewide film and discussion series centered on the film " <i>The Pursuit of</i>	Attend Film and Discussion	All Commissioners	As scheduled

<i>Happy</i> ness” featuring Will Smith.			
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VI Committee Reports

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<u>Public Awareness Committee</u> – Chair Christopher is looking for a Commissioner interested and willing to chair this Committee.			
<u>Legislation Committee</u> – No report.			
<p><u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Nancy Maihoff reported that the Mentoring Manual has been developed and is being distributed for review and feedback. She requested that Commissioners willing to serve as mentors complete the Mentor Informational Resume before the next meeting. Commissioner Maihoff asked Commissioners to communicate any errors that are found to her.</p> <p>Commissioner Nancy Maihoff is looking for her Committee to propose legislation giving the Commission the authority to effectively mediate Community concerns and situations. The CRC plans to work closely with the Legislative Committee.</p>	Complete the Mentor Informational Resume	Commissioners willing to be a mentor to new Commissioners	December 14, 2017

VII Old Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Sunshine Fund – An envelope was circulated in both Dover and Wilmington for contributions. An accounting for funds was provided to Commissioners.			

VIII New Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commissioner Whittona Burrell suggested for Human Relations Awareness Month the Commission host and promote a book signing/panel discussion in a public library in each county with Theresa Del Tufo, who recently published <i>Behind the Golden Door, The Resilience of Today's Immigrants</i> . She will coordinate with Commissioner Douglas James.			
Commissioner Kerri Harris advised that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program will be taking a bus to DC for a rally and press conference on December 6 th .	Email Commissioner Kerri Harris for details	Interested Commissioners	Undefined
Vincent Petroff reminded Commissioners that November 11 th is Veterans Day and informed Commissioners of recent incidents involving veterans and service animals in places of public accommodations. More details will be forthcoming.			
Commissioner Gail Launay-Tarlecki inquired if there were funds available for Commissioners to attend the upcoming First State Community Action Agency's Annual Dinner. Director Fullman advised based budget cuts fundraising events are no longer being supported. Commissioner Chok-Fun Chui shared that she has purchased a ticket will be attending as an individual.			
Commissioner Olga Ramirez inquired what was being done for the December Meeting & Holiday Celebration. Gail Launay-Tarlecki made a motion that the Commission meet as a whole, in one location (Dover), with a light meal. Commissioners would pay	Coordinate Holiday Celebration	Commissioner Nancy Maihoff	December 14 th

for themselves and guests. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dolores Finger Wright. A vote was taken, no opposition. Motion carries. Commissioner Nancy Maihoff will coordinate.			
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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 7:46 p.m. by Vice-Chair Gail Launay-Tarlecki.