

Prince George's County Human Rights Commission

Monday, March 28, 2022
Zoom Meeting of the
Prince George's County
Human Rights Commission

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Charlene Proctor, Chair
Felicia Sadler, Vice-Chair
Wade Woolfolk, Secretary
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Bannister Green
Llamilet Gutierrez
Wendi Howard
Sylvia Johnson
Ademola Oduyebo
Andrea Price-Carter
Joseph Reed

Keisha Garner, Counsel to the Commission

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Secretary Woolfolk called role of the Commissioners.
2. Adopt Agenda – The Chair called for a review of the agenda. Hearing no corrections or objections, the agenda was adopted as distributed.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **February 28, 2022** meeting. The Chair called for a review of the minutes. Corrections were noted. The minutes were adopted as written with the noted changes.
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed the Commissioners and acknowledged the important work of the Commission. She noted the two upcoming public hearings and thanked the panels in advance of their work.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director noted a change in public hearing status in the matter of Davis-Barker and Denison Landscaping, explaining that the parties had reached a settlement and that a settlement agreement would be before the Commission hopefully by the next Commission meeting.

The Executive Director highlighted two events coming up in the week: the legal panel in the *Freedom Stories* initiative, examining the book *A Question of Freedom*, which will be held on Wednesday, March 30th and another in the *Women in Faith: Diverse Voices Speak* series which will examine *Finding Hope in Difficult Times*.

She also reviewed budget season, of which the office is in mid-process.

6. CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

HRC Case No.: HRC20-1002
EEOC Charge No.: 12H-2021-00002
Yolanda Davis-Barker v Denison Landscaping
Investigator Langston Clay

Panel Members: Commissioner Oduyebo as Panel Chair, Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Price-Carter. Commissioner Howard as alternate.

This matter has been scheduled for public hearing June 28th and June 29th. The Chair reviewed the update from the Executive Director regarding the settlement.

FEPA Charge No.: HRC21-0202
EEOC Case No.: 531-2020-02614
Teonna Marshall v Seafood Fusions, Inc (aka Hook and Reel, Inc.)
Investigator Langston Clay

Panel Members: Commissioner Bryant as Panel Chair, Commissioner Johnson, Vice-Chair Sadler. Secretary Woolfolk as the alternate.

This matter has been set for Public Hearing on May 11 and May 16, 2022.

7. CASE STATUS UPDATE

HRC Charge No.: HRC19-0306
EEOC Charge No.: 531-2018-01416
Carisia Dyson v Staffing Etc.
(Investigator V'Hesspa Glenn)

Panel Members: Vice-Chair Sadler as Panel Chair, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Oduyebo; Commissioner Johnson as alternate.

Five nights of public hearing in this matter were held on May 20, June 14, August 16, 17, and 18, 2021. The opinion and order were before the Commission in closed session.

8. APPEAL HEARING

Below is an update of petitions for judicial review of Commission decisions before the Circuit Court of Prince George’s County.

Henry Lewis v Board of Education of Prince George’s County

HRC Case No.: HRC17-0809

This matter went to Public Hearing before the Human Relations Commission.

9. ATTENDANCE RECORD – Attached

The Chair invited the Commissioners to review the attendance record and, if noting any issue, to contact the Clerk for the Commission for corrections.

10. NEW BUSINESS

The Executive Director reminded the Commissioners of the EEOC notice sent around a few weeks ago and asked that they please add it to their calendars and plan to attend.

11. OLD BUSINESS

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2022.

13. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Oduyebo moved to go to closed session; Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the Commission moved to Closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Upon return from Closed session, Secretary Woolfolk reported:

In the matter of **Dyson v Staffing, Etc**

HRC Case No.: HRC19-0306;

EEOC Case No.: 531-2018-01416

The Commission voted to accept the opinion and order as drafted with compensatory damages in the amount of \$10,000 and a civil fine of \$10,000 to be paid to the Prince George’s County Government.

Moved by Vice-Chair Sadler; Seconded by Commissioner Johnson. By unanimous vote the opinion and order are accepted as written. The Clerk will issue the decision by close of business March 29, 2022.

Chair Proctor noted the extensive deliberations in this case and the time spent by Panel Chair Sadler and all the panelists. She noted the commitment and obligation of the Commission to enforce the laws of the County and noted the extraordinary work by the Panel and Counsel Garner.

Vice-Chair Sadler also thanked the panel, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Oduyebo, for their work and thanked the Executive Director for appearing at the hearings and thanked the Clerk for her work at five nights of hearing.

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – 6:49 pm

Commissioner Reed - Moved to adjourn
Commissioner Green– Seconded the motion.

Wade A. Woolfolk

Commissioner Woolfolk
Secretary