

Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

Monday, May 24, 2021
Zoom Meeting of the
Prince George's County
Human Relations Commission

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners:

Nora Eidelman, Chairperson
Charlene Proctor, Vice-Chair
Wade Woolfolk, Secretary
Nathaniel Bryant
Adonna Bannister Green
Ademola Oduyebo
Andrea Price-Carter
Joseph Reed
Felicia Lasley Sadler

Keisha Garner, Counsel to the Commission

Staff:

Renée Battle-Brooks
Executive Director

Kyla Hanington
Clerk to the Commission

Jose Villegas
Senior Investigator

Guests:

Keith Merkey – MCCR
Langston Clay - HRC

Excused:

Llamilet Gutierrez
Wendi Howard
Sylvia Johnson

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda – Commissioner Reed – Motion to adopt the agenda; Vice-Chair Proctor– Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the agenda was adopted as written.
3. Approval of Minutes of the **April 26, 2021** meeting. Vice-Chair Proctor– Motion to adopt to minutes of the April 26 meeting. Commissioner Price-Carter – Seconded the Motion. By unanimous vote, the minutes were adopted.
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chair welcomed everyone, including guest Keith Merkey from the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, and wished good health to all. She noted Commissioner Gutierrez was excused that evening. She reminded Commissioners that next meeting

would be her last as her term comes to an end and she will not seeking re-appointment. She said it has been a privilege to serve and knows the Commission will be left in good hands. The Chair explained she has been talking to the Executive Director about training for Commissioners. She said there have been no updates on the International Association of International Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) conference, usually held annually. An EEOC virtual training opportunity was provided to Commissioners by the Clerk earlier in the day and the Chair suggested Commissioners who are interested in attending reach out to the office to express their interest.

The Chair also thanked all of the Commissioners who have been spending so many hours serving on hearing panels over the last few weeks.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director also thanked the Commissioners for all of their efforts on the hearing panels over the last few weeks. She thanked them and noted that the Office is aware that this is a huge sacrifice with a lot of documents to review and their diligence is appreciated. She invited the Commissioners to join a discussion with Jordan Denari Duffner on her new book *Islamophobia* on May 25th and, on June 7th, a conversation with Christina Proenza-Coles on her book *American Founders*.

She also mentioned the upcoming EEOC training on June 3rd and encouraged those Commissioners interested and able to attend. She also told Commissioners they are looking to get some tailored training from EEOC directly for Commissioners and Mr. Villegas is waiting to hear back from EEOC. The Executive Director will talk to the Chair in more detail to find a suitable time.

The Chair took a moment to thank the Clerk for her efforts and time in organizing and assisting with the Public Hearings and re-thanked the Commissioners and the Executive Director for their time.

6. CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

HRC Charge No.: HRC19-0306

EEOC Charge No.: 531-2018-01416

Carisia Dyson v Staffing Etc.

(Investigator V'Hesspa Glenn)

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

The first night of public hearing was held on May 20, 2021 and the second night is scheduled for June 14, 2021.

FEPA Charge No.: HRC20-0322

EEOC Case No.: 531-2020-00697

Reddick v DC Tours & Transportation

Panel members: Secretary Woolfolk as Panel Chair, Commissioner Oduyebo, Commissioner Green; Vice-Chair Proctor as alternate.

Three nights of public hearing have been held on this matter: April 29, 2021; May 6, 2021; and May 10, 2021. A fourth night has been scheduled for June 8, 2021.

HRC Case No.: HRC20-0304

EEOC Charge No.: 531-2019-02276

Kheni Wells v Board of Education of Prince George's County

(Investigator V'Hesspa Glenn)

Panel members: Commissioner Howard as Panel Chair, Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Johnson; Commissioner Gutierrez as alternate.

A scheduling order in this matter has been issued with hearing dates of April 20 and 22nd. A motion for continuance was received and an order was issued with new hearing dates of June 22nd and June 23rd, 2021.

7. CASES READY FOR DECISION - NONE

8. HEARING PANEL UPDATES

HRC Case No.: HRC17-0809

EEOC Case No.: 531-2017-00390

Henry Lewis V Board of Education of Prince George's County

(Investigator Langston Clay)

Panel Members: Vice-Chair Proctor as Panel Chair, Commissioner Price-Carter, Commissioner Green; Commissioner Bryant as alternate.

Five evenings of public hearing in this matter were held January 28, December 15th, December 16th, 2020, January 27th, 2021, and February 3rd, 2021. The Panel had indicated during March 2021 meeting that they had provided a recommendation. A draft decision and order is being reviewed by the hearing panel and is expected before the full Commission for a vote at the June meeting.

9. CASE UPDATE – NONE

10. ATTENDANCE RECORD – Attached

11. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

12. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2021.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Reed - Moved to go to closed session, Seconded by Commissioner Sadler, by unanimous vote moved to close 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.

Return from closed session 6:18 pm

HRC Case No.: HRC19-1004

Commissioner Reed – Moved; Seconded by Commissioner Sadler.
By unanimous vote the motion to dismiss due to settlement is granted and the case dismissed with prejudice

HRC Case No.: HRC20-1201

The Commission moved to accept recommendation of Executive Director and the case dismissed.

Commissioner Green – Moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed.
By unanimous vote the Executive Director’s decision is upheld.

15. **ADJOURNMENT** –6:21 pm

Wade A. Woolfolk

Commissioner Woolfolk
Secretary