

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes-January 9, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the new Chair Roland Watkins. The following committee members were present: Helen Connolly, Jessica Briatico, Kiley Tibbetts, Tony Sanders, Marilyn Calix, Latoya Asia, Sukari Pinnock–Fitts, Carole Lieber, and Paul Lewis. Walter Charles Sergeant and Susie Lee were absent. Aruna Minhas, on behalf of Executive Director Gurjit Chima, and Sandra Perez were present from the Office of Human Rights.

Mr. Watkins introduced himself as the new chair, and welcomed Paul Lewis (new commissioner appointed in by the County Board in December 2018) and those in attendance. He wished everyone a happy new year, after describing 2018 as “very successful.” Mr. Watkins announced that he was appointed as the chair by the County Board, and that Kiley Tibbetts was appointed as the Chair of the EEO Standing Committee. Mr. Lewis and Commissioners introduced themselves to each other. Ms. Minhas welcomed Mr. Lewis to the Commission on behalf of Gurjit Chima. There were no members of the public or guests in attendance. Subsequently, the meeting proceeded as follows:

- I. The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- II. Chair Watkins requested a follow up meeting with County Attorney Steve Maclsaac to discuss follow up questions on his November 2018 presentation on FOIA and the Conflicts Act. Specifically, Commission wants to find out if there are any exceptions or a different rule (under FOIA) in relation to three or more members meeting for discussing administrative matters as opposed to actual business.
- III. Commissioners expressed interest in having access to the Commissioner Handbook for clarification on their roles and responsibilities.

- IV. Commissioners requested that outside 'referral/deferral' statistics be included in the monthly inquiries statistics report. Additionally, they also requested a copy of the monthly stats from the previous year for comparative analysis. Commissioners reiterated their interest in being provided with the monthly statistics and reports in the "same" format as originally provided to them prior to utilization of the Versivo portal. Commissioners would like to continue receiving the monthly pie chart format generated by Versivo.
- V. Mr. Tibbets reported on the Alexandria Juvenile Detention center tour conducted with Ms. Chima, Mr. Velazquez and Ms. Asia. He reported that he was "impressed" with the facility, and its policies on transgender residents and encouraged other commissioners to visit the facility. Chair Watkins agreed to schedule a tour(s) but wanted to check with Mr. Maclsaac first to see if any FOIA requirements applied to the tour.
- VI. Under New Business, Chair Watkins discussed the EEO Standing Committee and reported that Mr. Tibbets has been designated as the liaison for the county's barrier analysis. Mr. Tibbets encouraged Commissioners to consider volunteering for the EEO standing committee this year and to email him if they were interested in doing so.
- VII. Chair Watkins encouraged Commissioners to familiarize themselves with the Arlington County Human Rights ordinance for clarification on their roles and responsibilities under the code. He directed members' attention to Section Q of the ordinance which deals with EEO Standing Committee, and encouraged commissioners to consider joining the committee.
- VIII. Chair Watkins provided information on the Equality Task Force for Mr. Lewis, expressing that they are aiming for a "100%" MEI score this year. The task force chair position is currently open. Chair Watkins indicated he was looking for interested candidates to fill the position.
- IX. The Commission decided to hold only two (2) commission sponsored forums this year since they considered the earlier EEOC sponsored forum and the County Fair as public outreach forums. Ms. Pinnock-Fitts provided an update on the upcoming forum on Ageism, planned for April 2019. Ms. Pinnock-Fitts wanted the

advertisement for the event to go out in February by the next HRC meeting. She asked that the Arlington Mill community center be booked for Saturday, April 13th at 3:00 pm.

- X. Mr. Sanders is collaborating with Ms. Pinnock-Fitts and Mr. Tibbetts for planning the Ageism forum. In case they meet for discussing business, they will advise Sandra Perez in advance so she can post it on the website.
- XI. The Commission's next meeting is on February 14th at 6:30 PM instead of 7 PM so that business can be conducted prior to the Bobby Fisher appeal scheduled at 7:30 PM. The change of time will be noted on the website. The Commission would like the FIR to be sent to them one week in advance and file to be available in the office for review with advance notice to Sandra. The file will be available for review at the meeting as well.
- XII. Chair reminded commissioners that Financial Statements are due by January 15, 2019. All Commissioners reported having submitted their Financial Disclosure forms already.