

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes-October 10, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roland Watkins. The following commission members were present: Kiley Tibbetts, Paul Lewis, Sukari Pinnock-Fitts, Marilyn Calix, Walter Sargent, Helen Connolly, Susie Lee, and Latoya Asia. Carole Lieber and Tony Sanders were absent. Gurjit Chima from the Office of Human Rights (OHR) was present. Arlington County employee Dr. Reuben Varghese from the Department of Health and Human Services along with two members of the public, Abby Raphael and Tricia Rogers, were present. The meeting proceeded as follows:

- I. The minutes from the commission's September meeting was unanimously approved.
- II. There was no public comment.
- III. The Chair moved next to welcome Mr. Varghese, Ms. Rogers, and Ms. Raphael who were in attendance to make a presentation on Destination 2027, Arlington's Plan for Achieving Health Equity by 2027. Ms. Lee introduced the speakers and provided background information on coordination of the presentation. Dr. Varghese began the presentation and shared that there was a ten-year life expectancy difference in county based on the neighborhoods within the county wherein residents lived. Ms. Pinnock-Fitts asked presenters whether age was considered in the equity analysis to which Dr. Varghese responded that race was the main factor analyzed. The presenters also shared the County's Equity Resolution passed by the Arlington County Board in September 2019 as well as information on the county's participation in the GARE (Gov't. Alliance on Race and Equity) co-hort. Ms. Lee and Ms. Connolly asked whether the County could create a webpage with

updates on the county's equity efforts, including a list of county departments participating in the co-hort. The Chair asked the presenters how residents could get further involved in the county's conversation on equity to which Ms. Raphael suggested that residents create a task force on the issue. Ms. Raphael also suggested that the Board could create a Chief Equity position within the county as other jurisdictions had done or were considering doing. The Chair thanked the presenters and Ms. Lee for their efforts on the presentation.

- IV. Ms. Latoya Jackson moved to request that Arlington County create a website page providing information to the public relating to the Equity Resolution passed by the Board on Sept. 21, 2019 to include, but not limited to, the COG co-hort (members, etc.), its charge and employment and volunteer opportunities related to equity work in the County.
- V. Commissioners requested that HRC meeting minutes be posted on the county's website.
- VI. The Chair invited the entire Human Rights Commission to attend the December 3rd EEO Standing Committee in order to hear the County Attorney discuss public meeting requirements.
- VII. Mr. Lewis updated the commission on the planning of the J.B. Hunter award ceremony, indicating that he was attempting to confirm whether Gene Robinson would be able to serve as the keynote speaker. If not, Mr. Lewis indicated that Jay Johnson may be able to do so. Mr. Lewis indicated that invitations to senators and delegates were sent but that he was unsure if invitations to Arlington County Board members were issued.
- VIII. Commission members shared ideas on further outreach efforts in the community, including hosting commission tables at local festivals and conducting outreach to civic associations. The Chair suggested requested volunteers to serve on a task force on outreach. Mr. Tibbetts, Ms. Pinnock-Fitts and Ms. Lee volunteered to serve on the task force.
- IX. The Chair shared that he and Mr. Tibbetts met with County Manager Mark Schwartz regarding a number of HRC-related issues which were not elaborated upon during the meeting. Mr. Tibbetts stated that it was a "good" meeting.

- X. The Executive Director shared that the county continued the procurement process for the barrier analysis project.
- XI. Extensions: None.
- XII. The meeting was adjourned.