

State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
January 9, 2024 – 10am
Meeting held virtually via Google Meet
MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Stephanie Suerth, MPA, CCEP, Chair; Janssen E. Evelyn, Esq, Vice Chair; Angela Scott, Esq; Isabella Shycoff; Jeff Rosen; Magdalena S. Navarro, Eileen Levett, Diane Bernier, Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA

Management Present: Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director; Cleveland L. Horton II, Deputy Director; Glendora Hughes, General Counsel; Dia Drake- Sprague, Director of Education and Outreach

Staff Present: Gerald T. Ford, Executive Associate.

Members of the Public: None

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Chairperson’s Report

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also thanked MCCR for inviting the Commissioners to their annual Winter Fest. Finally, the Chair thanked Alvin Gillard for his leadership and wished him well on his retirement.

Executive Director’s Report

The Executive Director thanked the Commissioners for their diligent work throughout his tenure and pledges to make himself available to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights if the need arises.

Deputy Director’s Report

- The Deputy Director highlighted a few points from the Case Processing Unit’s written report.

General Counsel’s Report

- The General Counsel highlighted a few points from the Unit’s written report.
- In the General Assembly, there have been over 600 bills filed so far. For each legislative session, the General Counsel goes through the bills and identifies those that would impact Title 20 of the State Government Article. The bills identified were:

HB0017 (SB0274)

TITLE: Charter Counties - Comprehensive Plans - Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

HB0062 (SB0133)

TITLE: State Employee Rights and Protections - Personnel Actions and

SB0050

TITLE: Human Relations - Commission on Civil Rights - Appeal of Final Orders

SB0057

TITLE: Evidence - Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance - Fair Housing

SB0092

TITLE: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Education and Outreach Report

- January 17th, E&O in partnership with Impact Baltimore, will host a MLK Day event that will focus on Martin Luther King's letter from the Birmingham jail.
- January 31st, MCCR will participate in another Hate Bias Reporting Forum at Morgan State University. This event is sponsored by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights along with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, the Baltimore City Office of Equity & Civil Rights, and the Baltimore County Government Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- February 21st E&O is partnering with Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women for its Black History Month Event at the Enoch Pratt Central Library in Baltimore. The theme for the event is artistic expressions of Black heritage.
- April 17th MCCR is holding a virtual event with guest speaker, Stacey Herman to discuss neurodiversity at work. The forum will discuss understanding neurodiversity, talking about stereotypes regarding neurodiversity, and management strategies on how to build and support neurodiversity in the workplace.

New Business

None

The meeting went into executive session at 10:40 a.m.