

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Monday, May 19, 2014 - 4:00 P.M.
Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place
3054 W. Grand Blvd., Room L-150
Detroit, Michigan 48202

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commission Chair Arthur Horwitz
Commission Vice-Chair Rasha Demashkieh
Commission Secretary Jared Rodriguez
Commissioner Agustin Arbulu
Commissioner Linda Gobler
Commissioner Arthur Horwitz
Commissioner Deloris Hunt
Commissioner Linda Lee Tarver
Commissioner Bradley Voss

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Horwitz called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., and brought welcoming remarks.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 24, 2014

On Motion duly made and supported, the meeting minutes from March 24, 2014 were approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On Motion duly made and supported, the consent agenda was approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

In addition to their submitted written reports, Commissioner Horwitz requested reporting from Director Wesaw and Leslee Fritz on the budget and Public Affairs, and provided a Chairman's Report as well.

Highlights of Director Wesaw's report included attendance of partner agency events: NAACP 59th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner, ADC 15th Annual MLK Scholarship Dinner, ACCESS 43rd Annual Dinner, MAPAAC Splendor of the East event; status update on the adoption of the Interpreter Rules (DODHH); Meetings, Trainings and Conferences – noting Achieving Good Government Through Intercultural Competency conference; All Agency Meeting, draft strategic plan; introduction of new HR Director, Jennie Daniel.

Highlights of Deputy Director Fritz' report included a budget update: Fiscal Year 2014 expected to close with no issues; overview of the Governor's Executive recommendation including additional funding for Public Affairs, Enforcement Intake Unit and acquiring

the State ADA Compliance Office from DTMB; House and Senate expected to vote, target setting and negotiations on budgets by the first week of June.

Chair Horwitz expressed his appreciation for fellow Commissioners who were able to attend and participate in the All Agency Meeting; thanked Vice Chair Demashkieh for chairing the March 24th meeting in his absence and swearing-in new Commissioner Brad Voss; thanked Commissioner Tarver for her leadership on the Rule 12 oral arguments as lead commissioner on the *Smith v. Countryside Townhouses* action; acknowledged the Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition for utilizing the Tides Report to frame an economic and business case for extending protections in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

An overview and activity updates were provided for the following: Asian and Pacific American Affairs Commission by Denise Yee Grim, Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers executive workgroup by Al Flores, Michigan Women's Commission by Susy Avery, Hispanic Latino Commission by Chair Gil Guzman and Marylou Mason, Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council by Lori Vinson and Dan Levy, and the Arab Chaldean American Affairs Council by Charles Schoder.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Linda Lee Tarver requested that the commissioners receive a copy of the National Urban League's 2014 State of Black America Report: One Nation Underemployed Jobs Rebuild America. The purpose is to explore unresolved issues within the African-American community, similar to the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker study as well as other represented groups. Commissioner Tarver proposed to the Commission that a representative body (possibly establishing a Commission on African American Affairs) is needed that can micro-target specific issues in the African-American community that can be championed and addressed. Chair Horwitz requested of Director Wesaw to provide the Commission with the afore-mentioned report, and that the Commission will keep this at the top of the agenda.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary

Director