

**MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**

March 23, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.  
Holocaust Memorial Center  
Farmington Hills, MI

**MINUTES**

PRESENT: Commission Chair Arthur Horwitz  
Commission Vice-Chair Rasha Demashkieh  
Commission Secretary Agustin Arbulu  
Commissioner Mumtaz Haque  
Commissioner Deloris Hunt  
*New Commissioner* Ricardo Resio  
Commissioner Linda Lee Tarver  
Commissioner Bradley Voss

*The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Horwitz at 2:05 p.m.*

I. WELCOME

Commission Chair Horwitz called the meeting to order, provided welcoming remarks, and introduced the Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director, Stephen Goldman, who also brought welcoming remarks.

II. INDUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER RICARDO RESIO

New Commissioner Ricardo Resio was sworn-in by Commission Chair Arthur Horwitz: ***“I, Ricardo Resio, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Michigan Civil Rights Commissioner according to the best of my ability.”***

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Voss) and supported (Commissioner Demashkieh), the Meeting Agenda for March 23, 2015 was approved as submitted. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Voss) and supported (Commissioner Demashkieh), the Consent Agenda for the March 23, 2015 meeting was adopted as submitted. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2015

Commissioner Tarver requested the Minutes be amended to reflect specific remarks from Governor Snyder.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Hunt), the Minutes with amendments from the January 26, 2015 Commission Meeting were approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VI. DIVISION REPORTS

Director's Report, Matthew Wesaw – Director Wesaw's oral report was waived in his absence. However, his written report was submitted to the meeting packet, highlighting significant decisions, meetings, and events for the months of January 2015 through March 2015.

Public Affairs and Budget Report, Leslee Fritz – Ms. Fritz provided an update on the budget and introduced new Public Affairs staffer, Anthony Ianni (The Relentless Tour, Bullying Initiative). The work activity of the Community Relations Division was outlined in Ms. Fritz' written report, and articles of civil rights significance were included in Jacki Miller's PIO Report.

VII. COMMISSION MATTERS

Chair Report, Arthur Horwitz – Chair Horwitz acknowledged the Commission's appreciation for Governor Snyder's participation in the January 2015 meeting as well as Mel Larsen's service as facilitator for the March 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Planning Retreat; announced the Youth Academy's public forum at University of Michigan Dearborn on April 1<sup>st</sup> as well as the April 7<sup>th</sup> Youth Behind Bars Capitol Forum in Lansing.

Attorney General Report, Ron Robinson – AAG Robinson reported on the status of several cases from his written report for the months of January and February 2015, highlighting *Smith v. Countryside Townhouses*, *Barash v. SMART*.

With regards to next steps regarding the *Smith v. Countryside Townhouses* case, and after discussion, the following Motion was proposed:

**MOTION:** The Commission moves to provide based on recommendations from the Attorney General's Office and the Department's Legal Staff, the pre-authorization of Appeal based on the rehearing before Judge McMillan and the outcome of that rehearing to allow and empower our Chair to enact the will of the Commission.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Demashkieh), the Attorney General's Office will move forward with an Appeal upon Judge McMillan's decision. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

With regards to the next steps for the model non-discrimination ordinance template drafted by the Department's Legal Staff, and after discussion, the following Motion was proposed:

**MOTION:** The Commission moves to adopt the Non-Discrimination Ordinance template with an amendment to the Interpretation to be read as follows:

***Interpretation***

*This Non-Discrimination ordinance shall not be read to prohibit or interfere with a person's or religious institution's free exercise of religion as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 4, of the Michigan Constitution.*

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Arbulu) and supported (Commissioner Hunt), the Commission adopted the template with the noted amendment with a vote of 6-1-1 (YEA: Arbulu, Demashkieh, Haque, Horwitz, Hunt, Voss; NAY: Tarver; ABSTAIN: Resio). **Motion carried by majority vote.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Based on discussions from the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the following Motion was proposed:

**MOTION:** The Commission moves to adopt the Resolution by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission Creation of Commission Committees with the following amendments:

*Resolved that the MCRC:*

- 1. Shall create four (4) committees consisting of African-American Affairs, budget and finance, communications and outreach, and legislative/executive liaison to provide advice and recommendations to the MCRC.*
- 2. Each committee with approval of the Commission shall have a mission and appointments to these committees shall be made by MCRC Executive Council.*

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Demashkieh), the Resolution for the creation of Commission committees was adopted with the noted amendments. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

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**OK2SAY/Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative Presentation**, by Mary Gager Drew  
Consumer Protection Division, Attorney General Bill Schuette's Office

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney David Kallman brought concerns regarding the model ordinance language.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Tarver expressed her views on religion, ELCRA expansion and civil liberties; Dan Levy announced the appointment of new DODDBHH Director Anne Urasky, distributed Take on Hate Campaign shirts from ACCESS to the Commissioners; Chair Horwitz indicated the next Commission Meeting would convene on June 1 at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn at 5:00 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission adjourned at 5:21 p.m. by Chair Horwitz.

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Secretary

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Director