

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, November 19, 2018 ~ 1:00 P.M.

Larry K. Lewis Auditorium, Northwest Campus
Wayne County Community College District, 8200 W Outer Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48219

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commission Co-Chair Laura Reyes-Kopack
Commission Secretary Rasha Demashkieh
Commissioner Stacie Clayton
Commissioner Ira Combs, Jr.
Commissioner Ricardo Resio
Commissioner Jeffrey Sakwa
Commissioner Alma Wheeler Smith

EXCUSED: Commission Co-Chair Mumtaz Haque

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was Called to Order at 1:00 p.m. by Commissioner Reyes-Kopack. Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken to determine a quorum. Commissioner Resio, Commissioner Clayton, Commissioner Demashkieh, Commissioner Reyes-Kopack, Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Smith. With six of eight commissioners present, quorum requirements were met. Commissioner Sakwa arrived shortly thereafter.

AMENDMENT OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Move to Amend the Meeting Agenda by moving Agenda Item 11 (Public Comment) to follow Agenda Item 3 (Adoption of Consent Agenda). Following discussion, the following Motion was brought forth: **On Motion duly made (Commissioner Smith) and supported (Commissioner Combs), the Amended Meeting Agenda was Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to Adopt Consent Agenda as presented. Following discussion, the following Motion was brought forth: **On Motion duly made (Commissioner Demashkieh) and supported (Commissioner Combs), the Consent Agenda was Adopted.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George White brought concerns regarding the Department's complaint process.

Commissioner Asim Alavi (Michigan Asian and Pacific American Affairs Commission) brought concerns regarding documentation of hate and bias incidents in Michigan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 8, 2018 MEETING

MOTION: Move to Approve the Minutes from October 8, 2018 Meeting as submitted. Following discussion, the following Motion was brought forth: **On Motion duly made**

(Commissioner Smith) and supported (Commissioner Resio), the Minutes were Approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Agustin Arbulu provided status updates on the Department's activity.

On the matter of public charge, the following Motion was brought forth:

MOTION: Move that the Commission Oppose the proposed regulation charge changes and that the Commission go on record directing the Department to prepare a statement or comments to the federal government. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Smith) and supported (Commissioner Demashkieh), the Motion was Approved and the Department will prepare a statement or comments to the federal government.

Roll Call Vote:

Resio – support; Clayton – support; Demashkieh – support; Reyes - support
Combs – abstain; Sakwa – abstain

With a Vote of 4 Yeas, 0 Nays and 2 Abstentions, Motion carries by majority vote.

COMMISSION MATTERS

- **CO-CHAIR REPORT**

Commissioner Reyes-Kopack provided a status update on Commission activity, including the appointment of the Nominating Committee for the 2019 Election of Officers, Commissioners Demashkieh, Resio and Sakwa; and made reference to the Employee Survey to be discussed later in the meeting.

- **ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT**

Assistant Attorney General Ron Robinson provided a status update on current cases.

- **2019 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

MOTION: Move to Adopt the 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule as follows: January 28, March 25, June 3, July 22, September 23, November 18. Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Commissioner Combs) and supported (Commissioner Sakwa), the 2019 Meeting schedule was Adopted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2018 HEARING ON EDUCATION**

MOTION: In the absence of Co-Chair Haque, Move to Appoint Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh as temporary chair to facilitate the Hearing process. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Resio) and supported (Commissioner Smith), Commissioner Demashkieh will serve as temporary chair. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

This agenda item was waived.

- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2019 ELECTION OF OFFICERS, Rasha Demashkieh**

Commissioner Demashkieh outlined the Election of Officers nomination process, and will serve as lead commissioner of the Nominating Committee, along with Commissioner Resio and Commissioner Sakwa.

ONGOING BUSINESS

CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION HEARINGS IN 2019

MOTION: Move to Convene the next Hearing on Education in Macomb County on January 28, 2019. Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Commissioner Clayton) and supported (Commissioner Combs), the Commission will convene the next Hearing on Education in Macomb County on January 28, 2019. *Motion carried unanimously.*

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

MOTION: Move to Direct the executive director to prepare correspondence to the current governor and the governor-elect regarding reinstating and funding the Department's contract compliance unit, and to provide information at the Commission's 2019 educational retreat on the issue of contract compliance as an initiative for public hearings, in conclusion of the Education Hearings. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Combs) and supported (Commissioner Smith), the executive director will prepare and send said correspondence and provide said information at the Commission's 2019 educational retreat. *Motion carried unanimously.*

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES CHANGES

To be brought back at the January 28, 2019 meeting.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Commissioner Resio provided recommendations regarding the executive director's appointment.

Director Arbulu provided the Commission with an overview of preliminary results from the 2018 Employee Engagement Survey.

MOTION: To extend the executive director's letter of appointment from 2020 to 2022. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Combs) and supported (Commissioner Resio), the executive director's appointment was extended for an additional two years. *Motion carried unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

The Commission recognized Ricardo Resio for four years of service, as his term ends December 31, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On Motion duly made (Commissioner Resio) and supported (Commissioner Demashkieh), the meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission at 2:45 P.M. was Adjourned. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Next meeting scheduled for January 28, 2019 in Macomb County; location and time to be determined.

Secretary

Executive Director