

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 28, 2021 ~ 5:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting: Zoom web conferencing platform; Livestreamed via You Tube and Facebook

In compliance with the State of Michigan's Open Meetings Act, "the minutes must show the date, time, place, members present, members absent, any decisions made at a meeting open to the public, and the purpose(s) for which a closed session is held; the minutes must also include all roll call votes taken at the meeting." The minutes are limited to these requirements and do not reflect all subject matter that occurred during the Commission meeting. Meetings are audio recorded and kept on file with the MDCR.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commission Chair Stacie Clayton
Commission Vice-Chair Zenna Elhasan
Commission Secretary Ira Combs, Jr.
Commissioner Richard Corriveau
Commissioner Anupama Kosaraju
Commissioner Gloria Lara
Commissioner Portia Roberson

EXCUSED: Commissioner Regina Gasco-Bentley

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission was called to order by Chair Clayton at 5:01 P.M. Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken by Clerk Dan Levy to determine a quorum. Chair Clayton, Vice-Chair Elhasan, Secretary Combs, Commissioner Corriveau, Commissioner Kosaraju, Commissioner Lara. With six of eight Commissioners present, quorum requirements were met. *Commissioner Roberson arrived shortly after the meeting was in progress.*

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Move to Approve the Meeting Agenda as submitted. There was no discussion. On Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Lara), the Meeting Agenda was Approved. Motion carried unanimously.

OPENING MATTERS

WELCOME

Chair Clayton welcomed participants to the meeting by way of Zoom web conferencing and Facebook / You Tube livestream platforms. Chair Clayton indicated that there would be two presentations acknowledging Pride Month.

Commissioner Roberson joined the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL

Deputy Director Mary Engelman provided instructions to members of the public who wish to address the Commission during the Public Comment segment of the meeting.

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GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Cynthia Thornton, LGBTQ+ Liaison, MDCR Division on Equity and Inclusion

Ms. Thornton provided special remarks regarding Pride Month, and was recently promoted to the position of LGBTQ+ Liaison in the Department's Division on Equity and Inclusion. Ms. Thornton described the goals and objectives of her new role, which includes outreach and engagement of the LGBTQ+ Community, as well as expanding and strengthening the relationship of the Department with the LGBTQ+ Community.

Pride Month Observation: LGBTQ+ Youth Voices – Truman Hudson, Jr., EdD, Outreach Coordinator and Instructor, Division of Teacher Education, Wayne State University

Dr. Hudson's presentation entitled: "LGBTQ+ Studies in Education: Meeting Junior High and High School Student's Needs" focused on the importance of LGBTQ+ Youth voices being heard and included in conversations regarding civil rights and education equity.

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) – Edward Woods, III Communications and Outreach Director

Mr. Woods' presentation focused on the MICRC educating Michigan residents on the new redistricting process. Prior to the Commission drafting a new redistricting plan, 10 public hearings/listening tours must be held throughout the state – the MICRC decided to hold 16 of these public hearings; 14 are completed, the final two are June 29th in Muskegon and July 1st in Grand Rapids. The final slide from Mr. Woods' presentation will be made available on the MDCR website, which includes several ways to engage with the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Personnel Committee Report on Permanent Executive Director Selection Process

Chair Clayton, Vice-Chair Elhasan, and Commissioner Lara serve on the Personnel Committee and provided a comprehensive report on the permanent executive director selection process. At the May 24, 2021 Commission meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to appoint the Department's Legislative Liaison, John E. Johnson, Jr. as Interim Director effective June 2, 2021; however an end date was not established at that time.

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With Mr. Johnson having previously interviewed and ranked as one of the top final candidates, the Committee recommends that Mr. Johnson be considered the candidate for permanent executive director, based on his qualifications and prior work experience. The interim period, starting today until the next regular meeting, will be used to assess and determine that this process works for all involved, and the Commission will gain a full understanding of Mr. Johnson’s six-month plan for the Department, continuing the strategic plan former director James White set forth for the Department.

Next Steps

The Committee recommends the following process: to establish an end date of July 26, 2021 for the term of the interim executive director, and that the Commission consider John Johnson for permanent executive director.

MOTION: Move to Accept the permanent Executive Director selection process as indicated. On Motion duly made (Elhasan) and supported (Lara), the process was Accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0

Chair Clayton – Y	Commissioner Gasco-Bentley – Not Present
Vice-Chair Elhasan – Y	Commissioner Corriveau – Y
Secretary Combs – Y	Commissioner Kosaraju – Y
Commissioner Roberson – Y	Commissioner Lara – Y

COMMISSIONER CLOSING COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner closing comments.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to Adjourn. No discussion initiated. On Motion duly made (Elhasan) and supported (Combs), the meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission Adjourned at 6:03 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission will convene virtually on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

Chair

Secretary

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AT JULY 26, 2021 MEETING