

## **MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ 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  
Commissioner Zenna Elhasan  
Commissioner Regina Gasco Bentley  
Commissioner Denise Grim  
Commissioner Portia Roberson

EXCUSED: Commission Vice Chair Laura Reyes Kopack  
Commission Secretary Jeff Sakwa  
Commissioner Ira Combs, Jr.

#### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission was called to order by Chair Clayton at 6:00 P.M. Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken by Clerk Dan Levy to determine a quorum. Commissioner Clayton, Commissioner Elhasan, Commissioner Gasco-Bentley, Commissioner Grim, Commissioner Roberson were present. With 5 of 8 Commissioners present, quorum requirements were met.

#### WELCOME

Chair Clayton welcomed participants to be meeting by way of Zoom web conferencing and Facebook Live/You Tube livestream platforms.

Chair Clayton also offered this special message, followed by a moment of silence in honor of Congressman John Lewis and C.T. Vivian:

***"On Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, our country lost two fearless and tireless icons from the civil rights movement. Congressman Lewis and C.T. Vivian led the charge for change and helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These gentlemen were part of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s inner circle, and both received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barak Obama. To honor their legacy, we all must continue to peacefully protest injustice, advocate for equal justice, and in the words of Congressman Lewis, 'always stay in good trouble'. May we please bow our heads for a moment of silence in their memory."***

#### HOUSEKEEPING RULES FOR MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT

Interim Executive Director Mary Engelman provided instructions regarding Public Comment.

*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.*

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

**MOTION: Move to Approve the Meeting Agenda as submitted.  
On Motion duly made (Gasco-Bentley) and supported (Roberson), the Meeting Agenda was Approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION: Move to Adopt the Consent Agenda as submitted.  
On Motion duly made (Grim) and supported (Elhasan), the Consent Agenda was Adopted. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### APPROVAL OF JULY 7, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION: Move to Approve the Minutes as submitted.  
On Motion duly made (Grim) and supported (Roberson), the Minutes were Approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Cynthia Thornton, Detroit – Ms. Thornton brought concerns regarding the public's ability to contact the Commission directly, and obtaining michigan.gov e-mail addresses to be made available to the public.

#### MDCR SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Kim Woolridge, Director of the State ADA Compliance Division spoke on the activities in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Disabilities Act (ADA), and read the following proclamation into the record:

*State of Michigan Certificate of Proclamation*

**ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN**

***I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2020 as  
A DAY TO HONOR THE SIGNING OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT***

***WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities; and,***

***WHEREAS, the ADA established a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities and expanded opportunities for them by reducing barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing full participation in community life; and,***

***WHEREAS, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, about 27 percent of people in Michigan have disabilities, and these rates increase by age, with 41 percent of Michigan adults who are 75 years or older having a disability of some kind; and,***

*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.*

***WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that people with disabilities are given equal access to employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications in our state; and,***

***WHEREAS, the full promise of the ADA will only be reached if we remain committed to continuing our efforts to fully implement the ADA; and,***

***WHEREAS, on this anniversary of the signing of the ADA, let us recognize the progress that has been made by reaffirming the principles of equality and inclusion and recommitting ourselves to reach full ADA compliance;***

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2020 as A Day to Honor the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Michigan and encourage everyone to fulfill each of our inclusion commitments as we work to make our state a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.***

**MOTION: Move to Adopt a Resolution in support of the Governor's proclamation recognizing July 26, 2020 as a day to honor the signing of the Americans With Disabilities Act, and recommitting ourselves to ensuring that Persons With Disabilities are provided with the same rights and access that those of us too often take for granted.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Chair Clayton – Y

Commissioner Gasco-Bentley – Y

Commissioner Grim – Y

Commissioner Elhasan – Y

Commissioner Roberson - Y

**On Motion duly made (Elhasan) and supported (Grim), the Resolution was Adopted. Motion carried unanimously.**

Anthony Lewis, Director of Business and Community Affairs provided an update on the unit's activity; introduced staffers Gwen Moffitt, Mariza Gamez-Garcia and Charles Schoder.

Mark Bishop, Director of Strategic Operations and Community Engagement provided an update on the unit's activity; introduced staffers Anthony Ianni and Melissa Kiesewetter.

## DIVISION REPORTS

Mary Engelman, Interim Executive Director provided updates on the budget and staffing issues, CRIS (new database), and the Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers Report.

## COMMISSION BUSINESS

CHAIR REPORT, Stacie Clayton

*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.*

Chair Clayton provided an update on the Executive Director Selection, indicating that the application period closes July 27<sup>th</sup> (today) at 11:59 P.M.; as of 12:00 P.M. on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 103 applications had been received.

Sylvia Elliott, Special Counsel to the Commission provided a status update on the Education Report.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT, Ron Robinson

Ron Robinson, Assistant Attorney General provided a status update on the American Freedom Law Center case; and Mr. Robinson was reassigned as legal counsel to the Michigan Hispanic Latino Commission.

#### COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

This Agenda item was Waived.

#### ONGOING BUSINESS

There was no ongoing business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

#### COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Roberson had concerns regarding the order of Agenda items, specifically the placement of "Public Comment" and "Special Presentations". Chair Clayton noted that Commissioners have an opportunity to amend the Meeting Agenda at the beginning of each meeting.

Commissioner Grim thanked Mary Engelman, Tony Lewis and Mark Bishop for meeting with her regarding outreach to the Asian Pacific American Community.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to Adjourn.

On Motion duly made (Grim) and supported (Elhasan), the meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission Adjourned at 6:03 P.M. *Motion carried unanimously.*

*The next special meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission is August 19, 2020 at a time and location to be determined.*