

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, November 18, 2019 - 5:00 P.M.
MDCR Detroit Office, Cadillac Place Building
3054 W Grand Blvd., Suite 3-652
Detroit, MI 48202

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commission Chair Alma Wheeler Smith
Commission Vice Chair Stacie Clayton
Commission Secretary Laura Reyes Kopack
Commissioner Ira Combs, Jr.
Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh
Commissioner Regina Gasco-Bentley
Commissioner Denise Grim
Commissioner Jeffrey Sakwa

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission was called to order by Chair Smith at 5:07 p.m. Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken to determine a quorum. Commissioner Clayton, Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Demashkieh, Commissioner Grim, Commissioner Gasco-Bentley, Commissioner Kopack, Commissioner Sakwa, Commissioner Smith. With all Commissioners present, quorum requirements were met.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Move to Amend the Meeting Agenda, moving the AAG Presentation from Agenda Item 10 to follow Agenda Item 5 Public Comment. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Sakwa), the Amended Agenda was Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to Adopt the Consent Agenda as submitted. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Demashkieh), the Consent Agenda was Adopted.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Move to Approve the Meeting Minutes for meetings on August 27, 2019, October 14, 2019; Strike Minutes from September 23, 2019 due to meeting cancellation. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Clayton), the Minutes from the August 27, 2019 and October 14, 2019 were Approved as submitted.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENT (5:46-17:26)

Dale Freeman, Migrant Affairs Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Mr. Freeman brought concerns regarding driver's licenses for the Undocumented.

Robin Schneider, Executive Director
Michigan Cannabis Industry Association
Ms. Schneider brought concerns regarding social equity.

Anquetette Sarfoh, Director of the Board
Michigan Cannabis Industry Association
Ms. Sarfoh brought concerns regarding social equity.

Kamilah Landrum, Executive Director
Detroit Branch NAACP
Ms. Landrum formally introduced the new Detroit Branch NAACP leadership, including Chui Karega and Heaster Wheeler.

PRESENTATION ON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE –
Assistant Attorney General Kristin Stinedurf

DIVISION REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, Mary Engelman (Acting)

Chair Smith Recommended adding MSFW Hearings and Camp Visits to the next agenda under the "Organizational Meetings" item.

Enumeration study funding increased from \$185,000 to \$220,000.

Next (third) draft of Education Report to be submitted to Commissioners by second week of December 2019.

MOTION: To consider a Resolution on Education as a Civil Right.

RESOLUTION: While the Michigan Civil Rights Commission is continuing to develop conclusions and recommendations for our report on "Education Equity in Michigan", we have determined it is appropriate for us to release this draft excerpt from the report at this time. We do so because the question of whether education should be considered a civil right is hotly contested, so much so that it is at the root of present appellate litigation arising from a case involving the Detroit Public Schools. We believe this issue is of enormous importance, and one on which we need to be heard now, rather than in two to four months when the full report will be final and available to the public. We therefore resolve that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission finds public education to be a civil rights issue, and a minimally effective education to be a civil right. We further resolve to adopt and make publicly available the attached excerpt from the draft of what will be our report on "Education Equity in Michigan."

Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Kopack) and supported (Combs), the Resolution was Adopted.** Motion carried unanimously.

Draft of Annual Report to be submitted to the Commission by end of November 2019.

MOTION: To Adopt Resolution on Michigan driver's licenses.

RESOLVED: The Michigan Civil Rights Commission reaffirms its support for legislation providing Michigan driver's licenses and official state ID that are not REAL ID compliant to persons without regard to their immigration status.

Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Kopack) and supported (Demashkieh), the Resolution was Adopted.** *Motion carried by majority vote of 6-1-1.*

Yea – Clayton, Demashkieh, Gasco-Bentley, Grim, Kopack, Smith
Nay - Sakwa
Abstain – Combs

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Take Administrative Rules Revision Process Off the Table

MOTION: To Reinstate the Commission's Administrative Rules Revision process; to Take the Administrative Rules process off the table and recommence our update. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Clayton) and supported (Demashkieh), the Administrative Rules Revision process was Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

Executive Director Search Process

MOTION: To Approve the Executive Director job description. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Demashkieh) and supported (Combs), the Executive Director job description was Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: To Approve additional language on the Executive Director's responsibilities in their interface with EEOC. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Sakwa) and supported (Bentley), the additional language was Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: To Approve posting the Executive Director position for 4 weeks. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Sakwa), the Commission Approved the four-week posting for the Executive Director position.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: Move to Act as a committee of the whole, personnel will do the initial screening to ensure all of the candidates meet the criteria, then the Commission will be given the resumes with a template to be scored, we will collate, a deadline will be determined. Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Clayton), the Motion was Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

Interim Director Selection

MOTION: Move to Name Mary Engelman as the interim director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Clayton), the Commission Approved Mary Engelman as interim director. *Motion carried unanimously.*

2:56:04 – Commissioner Combs was excused from the meeting, quorum remained intact, all voting actions moving forward included only 7 votes.

MOTION: Move to Appoint Sylvia Elliott as special advisor to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Sakwa) and supported (Combs), the Commission Approved the appointment of Sylvia Elliott as special advisor to the Commission. *Motion carried unanimously.*

2020 Proposed Commission Meeting Schedule

The following meeting schedule and working sessions schedule were proposed:

Regular Meetings

January 27, 2020
March 23, 2020
June 1, 2020
July 27, 2020
September 28, 2020
November 23, 2020

Working Sessions

February 24, 2020
April 27, 2020
June 29, 2020
August 24, 2020
October 26, 2020
No session for December

MOTION: Move to Approve an eleven-month working calendar. Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Clayton) and supported (Grim), the 2020 Commission meeting schedule was Approved.

Motion carried by majority vote (5-1-1)

Yea: (5)

Nay: (1)

Abstain: Demashkieh

Scheduling of 2020 Commission Educational Retreat

A date will be determined once new Commissioner(s) are appointed. Commissioner Demashkieh indicated that she will not be returning, as her term expires December 31, 2019.

Selection of Nominating Committee for 2020 Officers

MOTION: Move to Name a Nominating Committee.

Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Demashkieh) and supported (Kopack), the Commission Approved naming a Nominating Committee.

Upon further discussion, the Commission decided to wait until January to name a Nominating Committee.

Motion Withdrawn by Commissioner Demashkieh; Support Withdrawn by Commissioner Kopack.

Ron Robinson reminded the Commission that Commission Rules state Election of Officers occurs in January of each new year, and recommended that the Commission move forward with naming a Nominating Committee.

MOTION: Move to Name a Nominating Committee.

Following discussion, **on Motion duly made (Demashkieh) and supported (Kopack), the Commission Approved naming to the Nominating Committee Commissioner Clayton as Chair, Commissioner Demashkieh and Commissioner Sakwa.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

Commission Committee Reports

There were no Commission Committee reports.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Sylvia Elliott provided an update on Contract Compliance.

Ron Robinson provided an update on the Literacy lawsuit.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Demashkieh provided brief comments regarding her experience serving on the Commission for eight years; her second term expires December 31, 2019. Commissioner Kopack and Chair Smith thanked Commissioner Demashkieh for her years of service.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 p.m. The next meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission is scheduled for January 27, 2020.