

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 23, 2017 ~ 2:00 p.m.
Capital Tower Building – 8th Floor Commission Room
110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Lansing, MI 48933

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh, Co-Chair
Commissioner Arthur Horwitz, Co-Chair
Commissioner Mumtaz Haque, Secretary
Commissioner Ricardo Resio
Commissioner Laura Reyes-Kopack
Commissioner Linda Lee Tarver
Commissioner Bradley Voss

EXCUSED: Commissioner Deloris Hunt

CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Demashkieh at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioner Voss, Commissioner Reyes-Kopack, Co-Chair Horwitz, Commissioner Tarver, Commissioner Resio, Commissioner Haque

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Meeting Agenda as submitted.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Horwitz), the Meeting Agenda was approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to adopt the Consent Agenda with an amendment to remove the DODDBHH Update.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Voss), the amended Consent Agenda was adopted with removal of the DODDBHH. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2016 MEETING

MOTION: Move to approve the Minutes from the December 5, 2016 Meeting as submitted.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Reyes-Kopack), the Minutes from the December 5, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2016 MEETING

MOTION: Move to approve the Closed Session Minutes from the December 5, 2016 Meeting as submitted.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Resio), the Closed Session Minutes from the December 5, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Executive Director Agustin V. Arbulu

In addition to Director Arbulu's written report, highlights included the following: The Enforcement Division's community outreach initiative has yielded positive results in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Flint during the months of September through December 2016; including 54

intake contacts, general Civil Rights presentations, Housing presentations, and a couple of joint Civil Rights and Housing presentations in Flint; there is interest in expanding this outreach initiative to Kalamazoo. There have been several retirements, including Sophie Baker (Civil Rights Manager), John Golaszewski (Director, Business and Community Affairs) and Debra Bell (Records Center Department Technician); interviews are scheduled for the CRM position in Lansing; Anthony Lewis will oversee ALPACT in Mr. Golaszewski's former position, as well as work with MCOLES. New Legislators are to be inducted on January 11th, MDCR will convene a 90-minute legislative briefing in early February and will hold these annually. Dr. Arbulu touched on the Mascot issue in the Paw Paw school district, indicating that formal action is expected by February 2017. Anthony Lewis and Colleen Pero are working on a study with MCOLES and ALPACT workgroups resulting from the Governor's Executive Directive on fostering public trust in law enforcement; a report will be completed May 1, 2017. The Michigan Women's Commission will convene a legislative reception in Lansing on January 24th. SEODC Update, approximately 40,000 State of Michigan employees have been trained through an online webinar as of December 2016; this was an initiative resulting from the Governor's Executive Order. This initiative has assisted with 94 state employees retaining their jobs.

DODDBHH UPDATE, Division Director Annie Urasky

Ms. Urasky reported that the Division is posting two positions for Civil Rights Investigator and Outreach Coordinator; interviews are scheduled for next week. There are now 607 Certified Interpreters in the State of Michigan; 52 Level III Interpreters with Legal endorsements; 83 Deaf-Blind endorsed Interpreters; 212 Interpreters with Medical and Mental Health endorsements; 103 K-12 Educational Interpreters, and 58 Substitute Interpreters. The Division's priorities are to be more proactive with accommodations and providers for language access, to re-establish lines of communication with the community, to increase visibility, and investigation training. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is February 24 in Grand Rapids, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Commissioner Horwitz requested a needs assessment update at the next meeting. Commissioner Tarver recommended that MDCR partner with the Promise Zones for training and scholarship opportunities, and also inquired about ASL Training at the high school level.

COMMISSION MATTERS

CO-CHAIR REPORT, Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh

The Co-Chair Report was waived.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT, AAG Ron D. Robinson

In addition to Mr. Robinson's written report, highlights included the following: ***Angelo Beno v. American Bar Association***, lawsuit filed in 2011, currently before U.S. Supreme court. The AG has filed an amicus brief on behalf of Mr. Beno. Received request from the Opinion Review Board for AG's opinion on the MSFW minimum wage issue, LARA's interpretation would exclude Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers from minimum wage protection. Recommended that the Commission authorize Director Arbulu to provide comments to be taken into consideration in the compiling of the AG's opinion.

2017 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

During the December 5, 2016 meeting, the following dates were proposed for the 2017 meeting schedule: February 17, May 22, July 24, September 25, November 13.

MOTION: Move to accept meeting schedule as proposed.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Haque), the proposed dates for the 2017 Commission Meeting Schedule were accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

In addition, the Commission will convene for their annual educational retreat on March 24, 2017, 1:00-5:00 p.m. in Detroit.

2017 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Co-Chair Horwitz, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Voss presented the proposed slate of officers for 2017:

Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh for Co-Chair

Commissioner Laura Reyes-Kopack for Co-Chair

Commissioner Deloris Hunt for Secretary

MOTION: Move to accept the proposed 2017 slate of officers as presented.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Resio), the 2017 slate of officers were accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Election Results

Office of Co-Chair: Rasha Demashkieh – (6 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain)

Office of Co-Chair: Laura Reyes-Kopack – (6 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain)

Office of Secretary: Deloris Hunt – (7 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain)

Elected officers comprise the Executive Council and shall serve through January 2018.

ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE, Deputy Director Colleen Pero

Ms. Pero provided a draft of the annual report on behalf of Vicki Levensgood. Much of the Commission's work was done on the Flint Water Crisis, so the annual report will be held until the Flint Water Crisis Report has been released. Commissioner Tarver suggested additional headings to be included: "State of Race Relations", "Take on Hate" Initiative, "Commission Resolutions", "Legislative Initiatives" that are pending or have not moved forward.

Ongoing business

FLINT WATER CRISIS DRAFT REPORT UPDATE, Executive Director Agustin V. Arbulu

Dr. Arbulu indicated that the final report would be submitted at next meeting on February 17, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Flint. Conference calls will be scheduled with each Commissioner for next week to answer questions and receive feedback.

MSFW REPORT UPDATE, Community Relations Director Martha Gonzalez-Cortes

Ms. Gonzalez-Cortes provided an update on the progress of the 15 recommendations submitted in the 2010 Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Report.

MINIMUM WAGE ISSUE UPDATE, Executive Director Agustin V. Arbulu

Dr. Arbulu provided an update on the Minimum Wage issue re: Minimum Wage protections be extended to Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers working on small farms in Michigan. A divisional memo (LARA) has reversed this protection. The Commission has supported this protection since the release of the 2010 MSFW Report, and reaffirmed its position during the December 5, 2016 meeting.

MOTION: Move to authorize the MDCR Executive Director to continue to seek additional clarification on the Minimum Wage Issue, to make pertinent requests in writing to LARA and the Attorney General's Office, and gather any additional information to report back to the Commission.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Reyes-Kopack) and supported (Commissioner Horwitz), the Commission has authorized the MDCR executive director to move forward as directed. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Palladino, City of Flint Resident

Leah Palladino, City of Flint Resident

Daniel Anquilla, Farmworker Legal Services, Kalamazoo

Tom Thornberg, Farmworker Legal Services, Kalamazoo

Cara Morberg, Farmworker Legal Services and IMSC, Kalamazoo
Guillermo Lopez, Latino Leaders for Advocacy and Development, Lansing
Kimberly Grech
Elvira Hernandez, ACLU of Michigan

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to adjourn the Meeting.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Reyes-Kopack), the Commission Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Secretary

Executive Director

Minutes approved as submitted on February 17, 2017.