

**MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING**  
Monday, January 22, 2018 ~ 2:00 P.M.  
MDCR Executive Office, Capital Tower Building  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Commission Room, 110 W Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

**MINUTES**

PRESENT: Commission Co-Chair Rasha Demashkieh  
Commission Co-Chair Laura Reyes-Kopack  
Commission Secretary Deloris Hunt  
Commissioner Mumtaz Haque  
Commissioner Ricardo Resio  
Commissioner Jeffrey Sakwa  
Commissioner Linda Lee Tarver

EXCUSED: Commissioner Bradley Voss

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

The meeting was Called to Order at 2:03 p.m. by Commission Co-Chair Rasha Demashkieh. Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken to determine a quorum. Commissioner Haque, Commissioner Sakwa, Commissioner Tarver, Commissioner Resio, Co-Chair Reyes-Kopack, Co-Chair Demashkieh, Commissioner Hunt. With seven of eight commissioners present, quorum requirements were met.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Following discussion, on a Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Sakwa), the Meeting Agenda was Approved as submitted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Following discussion, on a Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Hunt), the amended Consent Agenda was Adopted as submitted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2017 MEETING**

**MOTION:** Following discussion, on a Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Haque), the Meeting Minutes were Approved as submitted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

**COMMISSION MATTERS**

- **CO-CHAIR REPORT,**  
Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh provided update on Commission activity.

- **AMENDED 2018 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 12**

**MOTION:** Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Resio), the November 12, 2018 Commission Meeting was changed to November 19, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **SCHEDULING OF 2018 EDUCATIONAL RETREAT**

**MOTION:** Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Commissioner Reyes-Kopack) and supported (Commissioner Resio), the Commission Educational Retreat will convene on February 22, 2018 at 12:00 Noon at a location in Detroit. *Motion carried unanimously*

- **SLATE FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION:** Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Commissioner Hunt) and supported (Commissioner Tarver), the Slate of Officers was accepted as submitted: Commissioner Reyes-Kopack and Commissioner Haque to the Office of Co-Chair, Commissioner Demashkieh to the Office of Secretary. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER DELORIS HUNT**

Commissioner Hunt indicated that she has submitted her resignation to the Governor, and that it would be effective January 31, 2018.

- **ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT**

Assistant Attorney General Ron Robinson indicated that Mark Bishop of MDCR would be providing sexual harassment training to state employees of the Attorney General's Office, and provided updates on AG activity on behalf of the MDCR.

- **COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

This agenda item was waived.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

- Updates were provided by Director Arbulu and Dan Levy on the issuance of Executive Order 2017-8, transferring certification and endorsement of sign language interpreters to the Department of Licensing And Regulatory Affairs; the Education Report; the Attorney General's opinion on migrant and seasonal farmworkers minimum wage issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **PRESENTATION BY THE GRAND RAPIDS AREA ASSOCIATION OF PASTORS (GRAAP)**

Pastor Jathan K. Austin - Lead Pastor, One Church Empowerment Center, Pastor Jerry Bishop – Senior Pastor, One Church Empowerment Center, Pastor Jerry Bishop – Senior Pastor, Life Quest Ministries and Reverend Dr. Howard Earle – Senior Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, all from the Grand Rapids Area Association of Pastors (GRAAP) presented information about their concerns with the implicit bias and violation

of the civil rights of black and brown citizens of the City of Grand Rapids. "They desire equitable outcomes that will give minorities confidence in GRPD policies, procedures and practices." They asked for "the co-development and implementation of community policing policies and procedures that protect all citizens equally regardless of color."

**MOTION: Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Sakwa), the Department is directed to provide the Commission with what authority under the Constitution and Laws is available to assist the above group and to follow up with the Association. The Department should also assist the Pastors in their request to provide assistance in helping design and launch a Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation process in Grand Rapids and for help in reviewing the policies and procedures of the Grand Rapids Police Department. *Motion carried unanimously.***

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kimberly Grech made a public statement expressing her individual concerns.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Departing members Hunt, Tarver and Voss (in absentia) were thanked for their service and given crystal symbols recognizing their years of service on the Commission. All members present, as well as the Director and Legal Counsel, expressed their thanks and gratitude for the work of Commissioners Hunt, Tarver and Voss.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Hunt), the meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission at 4:19 p.m. was Adjourned. *Motion carried unanimously.***

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Secretary

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Executive Director