

## MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 24, 2022 ~ 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 Vice-Chair Zenna Elhasan  
Commissioner Regina Gasco-Bentley  
Commissioner Portia Roberson  
Commissioner Richard Corriveau  
Commissioner Anupama Kosaraju  
Commissioner Gloria Lara

#### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission was called to order by Vice-Chair Elhasan at 5:00 P.M.

Vice-Chair Elhasan welcomed participants to the meeting by way of Zoom web conferencing and Facebook / You Tube livestream platforms.

Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken by Clerk Jerome Reide to determine a quorum. Vice-Chair Elhasan, Commissioner Gasco-Bentley, Commissioner Roberson, Commissioner Kosaraju, Commissioner Lara. With five of six Commissioner present, quorum requirements were met.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Vice-Chair Elhasan brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: Move to Approve the Meeting Agenda as submitted.** There were no amendments or discussion. **On Motion duly made (Lara) and supported (Gasco-Bentley), the Meeting Agenda was Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

***Commissioner Corriveau joined the meeting at 5:03 P.M.***

#### OPENING MATTERS

##### WELCOME / VICE-CHAIR REMARKS

Vice-Chair Elhasan provided welcoming remarks, indicating that the meeting was held virtually in order to effectively and appropriately reduce COVID risks to the public, staff and Commissioners while still conducting the important business of the Department and the Commission, and that convening virtually was done so in

the spirit of the Open Meetings Act. Vice-Chair Elhasan indicated that the cadence of future meetings will be discussed under New Business, and the Commission will plan on meeting in person for the next meeting, unless otherwise instructed.

Dr. Jerome Reide, Commission Advisor and Legislative Liaison was called upon to provide a brief overview on the Commission and its authority.

#### RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JANUARY

Vice-Chair Elhasan recognized significant dates for the month of January, including the national holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday on January 17<sup>th</sup>, the National Day of Racial Healing in Michigan on January 18<sup>th</sup>, and Fred T. Korematsu Day in Michigan on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S SLATE OF OFFICERS

Vice-Chair Elhasan indicated that the Nominating Committee, comprised of former chair Stacie Clayton, and former secretary Bishop Ira Combs, Jr., and herself, gauged interest from the Commissioners and recommends the following slate of officers for election: Commissioner Roberson for the office of Chair; Commissioner Elhasan for the office of Vice-Chair; Commissioner Lara for the office of Secretary.

#### 2022 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice-Chair Elhasan brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: Move to accept the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers as presented.**

**Chair – Commissioner Roberson  
Vice-Chair – Commissioner Elhasan  
Secretary – Commissioner Lara**

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0

Elhasan – Y	Corriveau – Y
Gasco Bentley – Y	Kosaraju – Y
Roberson – Y	Lara – Y

**There was no discussion. On Motion duly made (Gasco-Bentley) and supported (Kosaraju), the slate of officers was Approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

***The gavel and the meeting were turned over to the newly elected Chair, Commissioner Roberson. Chair Roberson provided brief remarks, indicating she was looking forward to working with the Commission and with Director Johnson.***

## PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL

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

### ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Roberson brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: Move to Adopt the Consent Agenda as submitted.** There was no discussion. **On Motion duly made (Elhasan) and supported (Lara), the Consent Agenda was Adopted.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 22, 2021 MEETING

Chair Roberson brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: Move to Approve the Meeting Minutes as submitted.** There were no revisions or discussion. **On Motion duly made (Lara) and supported (Elhasan), the Minutes from the November 22, 2021 Commission Meeting were Approved.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Taura Brown, Detroit, MI

Ms. Brown brought concerns regarding a housing complaint she filed last year. She maintained she has not heard back from the investigator. She asked if there is a way or a protocol for providing information to people who have filed complaints.

Ms. Alicia Jones, Troy, MI

Ms. Jones brought concerns regarding an attempted kidnapping of four Detroit Public Schools Community District. The students who are siblings, range in age from five years old to eleven years old. The incident occurred on November 30, 2021. This is the same date as the Oxford High School shooting incident. The attempted kidnapping incident was not publicized. The alleged kidnapper has been given bond and is a known predator. The children have not received any support from the school system or from law enforcement. Ms. Jones asked if a complaint may be filed with the MDCR.

Ms. Bonnie Anderson, Michigan Interfaith Coalition

Ms. Anderson indicated that two resolution requests were communicated to the Department (Oakland and Wayne Counties). Both with regards to the Commission supporting resolutions for revising no-fault auto insurance reform.

Dr. Owen Perlman, Ann Arbor, MI

Dr. Perlman, a physician with St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital brought concerns regarding challenges regarding reforms to no-fault auto insurance and catastrophic injury victims not having access to adequate care due to the new reforms.

Mr. Gabriel Mongefranco, Ann Arbor, MI

Mr. Mongefranco experienced technical difficulties and was unable to provide public comment; however, written comment was provided and was electronically forwarded to the Commission.

## DIVISION AND OTHER REPORTS

### A. Executive Director Report, John Johnson, Jr.

Director Johnson submitted a full written report to the Commission on the activity of the Executive Director and the major divisions of the Department from to November 2021 to January 2022, as well as additional personnel updates, an update on the budget, and a plan of action regarding the backlog of cases in Enforcement.

### B. MCRC/Legislative Liaison Report, Dr. Jerome Reide

Dr. Reide submitted a full report to the Commission on legislative activity from November 2021 to January 2022, and presented on the Department's legislative priorities including redistricting maps and Dynamic Character legislation.

Secretary Lara asked that Dr. Reide's updated slides be sent to the Commission.

### C. Other Reports

There were no additional division reports.

### D. Attorney General Report, David Cannon

Mr. Cannon submitted a full written report to the Commission and provided a brief status update on the following cases: ***Rouch World, LLC and Uprooted Electrolysis v. MDCR, Romig Amicus Brief.***

## COMMISSION BUSINESS

### A. Chair's Report, Portia Roberson

Chair Roberson indicated that today's report would be waived, as she is newly elected as of earlier in this meeting. However, Chair Roberson will provide reports at future meetings moving forward.

### B. Committees for Commission's 2022 Priorities

Chair Roberson requested that Commissioners volunteer to lead the following committees to focus on the Commission's priorities for 2022:

Voting Rights Committee: Commissioner Kosaraju

Safe Learning Environments (Education Equity) Committee: Vice-Chair Elhasan

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee: Secretary Lara

Environmental Justice Committee: A lead Commissioner will be determined at a later date.

C. HR Committee for Director Johnson's Annual Performance Evaluation

Chair Roberson requested two Commissioners volunteer for the HR Committee for Director Johnson's Annual Performance Evaluation.

Secretary Lara and Commissioner Gasco-Bentley volunteered for the HR Committee and will provide guidance and recommendations at the next meeting on evaluating Director Johnson.

D. APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 Biannual Report

Chair Roberson brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: To Adopt the 2020-2021 Commission Biannual Report as submitted.** There were no revisions or discussion. **On Motion duly made (Elhasan) and supported (Kosaraju), the 2020-2021 Commission Biannual Report was Adopted as submitted.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

A. Select date for Instructional Retreat

Chair Roberson indicated that this item will be tabled until the next meeting, as the new Commissioners will be appointed by then and will have an opportunity to weigh-in on date selection. The Commission agreed unanimously to table this item.

B. Other New Business

Vice-Chair Elhasan requested that the Commission evaluate the cadence of meetings, recommending that the Commission convene quarterly rather than bi-monthly (6 times per year). Special meetings to be added as needed. Secretary Lara indicated that since the MDCR has three offices (Detroit, Lansing, and Grand Rapids) which services the entire state; recommended that at least one meeting be held in Grand Rapids, and also suggested convening a meeting in Traverse City due to civil rights issues in schools. Vice-Chair Elhasan indicated that meetings would soon return to in-person, bringing a close to virtual meetings; but requested that livestreaming continue so that more people across the state could participate in the meetings. Chair Roberson suggested that quarterly meetings occur in January, April, July and October.

Chair Roberson brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: Move to convene quarterly meetings with the next meeting occurring on April 25, 2022.** Secretary Lara requested that the Commission have an opportunity to check calendars before committing to dates.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN: Chair Roberson withdrew her Motion.**

Chair Roberson brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: Move to moving cadence of meetings to four meetings per year. Following discussion, on Motion duly made (Elhasan) and supported (Kosaraju), the Commission Approved convening meetings quarterly. Motion carried unanimously.**

Secretary Lara will determine the dates, times and locations of the next meetings.

There was no other new business.

#### COMMISSIONER CLOSING COMMENTS

Brief closing comments were provided by Chair Roberson.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chair Roberson brought the following Motion:

**MOTION: Move to Adjourn.** There was no discussion. **On Motion duly made (Elhasan) and supported (Lara), the meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission Adjourned at 6:13 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.**

*The next meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2022; however, based on the Commission's decision to transition to quarterly meetings, a new meeting date, time, location and method will be determined.*

DRAFT MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AT FOLLOWING MEETING.