

**Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Community Relations Commission
Virtual Meeting
Public Session Minutes
April 19, 2023**

Participating in the virtual conference were Commissioners Todd Yeary (Chair), Nadine Finigan-Carr (Secretary), Phillip Farfel, Stephen Ruckman, and Yvette Ilechie. Also present were staff: Caylin Young (Deputy Director), Danielle Burton (Supervisor), Zelma Ortiz (Investigator), and Andrea Pineda (Investigator).

I. Welcome/Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chair Yeary.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. The March 15, 2023 public session minutes were approved.

III. Director's Report

A. Supervisor Danielle Burton gave the Director's Report.

1. Dept. of Planning: The hearing has been confirmed for May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Pressman Boardroom at City Hall and via WebEx and Charm TV. Staff provided general questions to prepare for the hearing. Commission questions due before April 28, 2023.
2. EEOC contract still being modified. Supervisor Burton is working to obtain the required number of investigations to meet our contract.
3. Commissioner Farfel asked about the Bill #HB0009/SB0019 *Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses*¹
4. Commissioner Ruckman asked about a Civil Rights Bill that he would like OECR to partner with.
5. Commissioner Finigan-Carr mentioned that Bill #HB0297/SB292 had passed - *Criminal Law-Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking – Safe Harbor and Service Response* as a Civil Rights issue.² - passed
6. Chair Yeary and Deputy Young spoke about tracking the legalization of recreation cannabis.
7. Commissioner Finigan-Carr spoke about Bill #SB54/HB131 *Criminal Law – Unnatural or Perverted Sexual Practice – Repeal*³

¹ (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB0009>

² House Bill 297 - Mgaleg.maryland.gov. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0297E.pdf>.

³ (n.d.). Senate Bill 54. Maryland General Assembly. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/sb/sb0054T.pdf>

B. Data

1. Supervisor Burton highlighted a case with restitution of \$6500.00.

C. Legislative updates

1. OECR supports Bill #SB47 *Evidence – Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance – Fair Housing Testing*⁴ - did not pass
2. OECR supports Bill #HB264/SB400 *Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning*⁵ - did not pass
3. OECR supports Bill #HB1066 *Hate Crimes – Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention – Establishment*⁶ - passed both houses
4. OECR supports Bill #HB705 *Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom*⁷ - passed both houses
5. Chair Yeary and Deputy Young discussed the legislation on cannabis and will be tracking those bills.

D. Administrative

1. OECR administration is reviewing resumes for board member vacancies.

IV. Commissioners' Report

- A. Commissioner Finigan-Carr gave a report of her transition in her new role.
- B. Chair Yeary reminded Commissioners to complete their financial disclosures by May 1, 2023.
- C. Chair Yeary reminded Commissioners about the May 3, 2023 hearing with the Department of Planning. In addition, he spoke about compiling a draft of recommendations to be added to the Annual Report.
- D. Commissioner Finigan-Carr reminded Commissioners about the DPW follow-up meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

⁴ *Senate bill 47 - mgaleg.maryland.gov.* (n.d.). Retrieved April 2023, from <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/sb/sb0047F.pdf>

⁵ *Legislation - SB0264*, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0264>.

⁶ *Legislation - HB1066*, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1066>.

⁷ *House Bill 705 - Mgaleg.maryland.gov.* <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0705t.pdf>.