



**BALTIMORE CITY OFFICE OF
Equity and Civil Rights**

Women's Commission Meeting Minutes

In-person & Virtual Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

5:00 PM

Commissioners Present:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Kionne T. Abdul-Malik | 8. Tevis Simon |
| 2. Lynda Davis | 9. Sara Whaley |
| 3. Carolyn Jewell | 10. Gab Sussman |
| 4. Miriam Carrion | 11. Sarasijhaa Desikan |
| 5. Monica Mitchell | 12. Kimberly Haven |
| 6. Rachel Marquez | 13. Casey Brent |
| 7. Ciarra Miles | 14. Stephany Sulbaran |

Commissioners absent:

Ana Rodney, Ella Smothers, Yasmin Karimian, Robin Neverdon, Candace Everett Dickens

Guests:

Teresa Cummings, Baltimore City Law Department Advice and Opinions Practice Group

Staff present:

Jill Muth (Program Compliance Officer)

Autumn Grant (Policy Analyst)

Khadeja Farahmand (OECR Chief of Staff)

Robin Drummond (OECR Boards and Commissions Coordinator)

1. Meeting called to order at 5:21 after technical difficulties with the zoom link.
2. July minutes approved by a unanimous vote.
3. Staff updates:

- a. No decision from the mayor on the Chair appointment, but the decision should be made later this week.
 - b. Bylaws will be posted for public comment after the law department has reviewed them. ETA later this week.
 - c. Mayor Scott and Councilmen Torres have introduced legislation to create the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens to be housed under Neighborhood Safety. The goal is to assist people as they are re-entering society following incarceration.
 - d. Renters United Housing Summit to be held on August 27th. Link for registration will be sent to the committee.
 - e. Inclusive language has been posted in our mission statement online.
 - f. Baltimore City has been invited to apply for a \$50,000 grant from the Carter Center Informing Women/Transforming Lives Program. If selected, we will be trained on how to best select and promote a city service. Application submitted and a decision is forthcoming.
 - g. Civil Rights Week (October 28-November 4, 2023) plans still in the works but will include a panel discussion on women leading the city including Dana Moore, Dept. of Transportation, Housing Department, and Social Services. A Mayor's luncheon with the Women's Commission is also in the works.
 - h. A women's businesses dashboard is in the works. The existing equity dashboard is serving as the model.
 - i. Officially adopted performance measures which allows us to request a budget. They include programs evaluated, number of meetings held with city staff, and number of referrals from the public.
 - j. Strategic planning retreat in the works for the winter.
 - k. Outreach underway to state and county women's commissions to share best practices.
 - l. Dana Moore is speaking at the Black Women's Equal Pay Conference on September 22.
 - m. Constitutional amendment for gender equality is under consideration, which could have huge implications. If the commission wishes to support this amendment, letters are being accepted and the staff can help us draft.
 - n. Baltimore Sun's Women to Watch event happening in October and we are working on finding ways to support the event.
 - o. Maryland Supreme Court has ruled that sexual orientation protections are not guaranteed in Maryland.
4. Presentation on the Maryland Public Information Act by Teresa Cummings with the Baltimore City Law Department Advice and Opinions Practice Group
 - a. Overview of the law and the commissions responsibilities as it relates to the MPIA.
 5. Postponement of discussion with Alexis Blackmon, Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs
 6. Subcommittee discussion
 - a. Recommendation to combine some of our mandates into joint subcommittees to

help manage and simplify the tracking.

- b. Seeking to remove inequalities will be folded into *all* subcommittees as a mandate.
- c. Discussion will continue in a separate meeting to be determined within the week.
- d. Next steps: members sign up for a subcommittee and then committee selects a chair.

7. **New Business** – none

8. **Open Discussion** – none

9. **Next meeting** is Wednesday, September 27th at 5pm

10. **Adjournment** - meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.