

**ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Cisco WebEx Conference  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022  
7:30 p.m.

**Member Attendance:** Amina Shafi Rogers (Co-Chair), Andrew Lin (Co-Chair), Vice-Chair Gabrielle Zwi, Oyebisi Olatoye, Molly Cullen, Kaoru Sakabe

**Staff Liaisons:** Ali Hoy, Councilmember Dr. David Myles

**Student Ambassadors:** Anastasia Caruso

**Guests:** Brian Rogers (Cultural Arts Commissioner), Frederika Granger (City of Rockville Community Service Manager)

- I. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.
- II. Welcoming of Guests** – The Commission welcomed Frederika Granger, Anastasia Caruso, and Brian Rogers.
- III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Minutes** – Upon motion, seconded, and approved, the meeting agenda and April meeting minutes were adopted.
- IV. Rockville Youth Programs and School-Based Mental Health** – Commissioner Lin noted that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The region has experienced a lot of programming at various levels, including city/county/state/federal over these last couple of weeks. Guest Frederika Granger, the Community Services Manager from Rockville’s Department of Housing and Community Development gave an overview of the mental health services provided by various entities. City of Rockville: Linkages to Learning is a program in various schools throughout the county to be available for students to learn. The Community Schools program provided through Kirwan funding will be coming next year to Twinbrook Elementary. School Community Youth Services, which provide programs to prevent students from entering the criminal justice systems will be implemented in three Rockville schools, Richard Montgomery, Rockville High School and Twinbrook Elementary. The City and County divide the funding for this program. In addition to student counseling, Rockville also has counseling for parents. Ms. Granger also reviewed the City’s a mentorship program and Latino youth development program. The mentoring program will expand to Earle B. Wood Middle School next year.

Ms. Granger described extra programming through the month. Children’s Mental Health Matters is a state led program spreading awareness on children’s mental health. The county HHS and various organizations provide services for extremely at-risk individuals. Also have victims assault programs and more. She also reviewed MSPS’s plan to place social workers on-site in schools to fulfill services and needs

previously addressed by school personnel and other support programs. The eventual goal is to place a social services worker in each high school.

Ms. Granger then reviewed County HHS's operation and expansion of school-based wellness centers. She noted that Rockville High School will eventually have 1) social MCPS worker 2) a counselor funded from HHS and 3) family case manager from HHS, 4) and a therapeutic recreation counselor to help families acclimate to Rockville/U.S. The plan to place wellness centers in each high school will likely take 10 years.

Ms. Granger then addressed questions regarding the distinction between counselors and social workers and where information about mental health and other social services are compiled online.

Councilmember Myles also noted the use of embedded mental health specialists to accompany police when responding to certain service calls.

Commissioner Zwi described additional recent mental health efforts by MoCo for Change, and other organizations and coalitions.

## **V. Staff Report**

A. **Pride 2022** – Liaison Hoy provided an overview of the Pride Virtual Event to be held on June 5th, 2022. Commissioner Zwi noted that due to lack of a group leader, the consensus was that we could use that the Legislation topic would be deferred for a future event. Commissioner Zwi then addressed the flow of events. Each session will be 30 minutes, lead by volunteers. Commissioner Zwi suggested the need to finalize the discussion prompt questions. Commissioner Lin noted that he had not yet been able to identify a cohost for the religion session. Commissioner Cullen asked if the Commission would be interested in reaching out to Chamber of Commerce LGBTQ contact. Liaison Hoy discussed outreach for the program, including a social media push and publication in the monthly volunteer newsletter.

Liaison Hoy provided extensive overview of planning updates for in person Pride event to be held on June 26 along with Commissioners Shafi Rogers, Lin, and Zwi. Ms. Hoy reviewed the budget for the event. She then discussing sponsors and fundraising efforts. Lastly, they discussed the need for volunteers for the event.

## **VI. Chair Report**

A. **Board of Supervisors of Elections** – Co-Chair Lin described recent developments regarding the joint task forces attempts to create more promotional materials addressed to the Asian community. The City had determined that it was preferable to rely on written materials already produced by the County The task for ce is still considering additional steps that can be taken.

- B. **Hometown Holidays** – Commissioner Lin noted that it was determined not to have a table for Hometown Holidays this weekend due to lack of volunteers. Ms. Granger noted that Pride promotional materials can be distributed at the City’s table.

**VII. Other Committee Reports**

- A. **Current Affairs Committee** – Commissioner Cullen described the community vigil recently held by County, City and other local leaders in the wake of the recent mass shootings. The Commissioners then discussed what role the HRC should play in speaking out about and responding to such incidents.

**VIII. Old Business**

- A. **Montgomery County Reconciliation Commission (MCRC)** – Commissioner Olatoye noted the efforts to preserve historical legacies in the County, looking at burial grounds, and the issue cemeteries, specifically African American cemeteries and preservation offices to make this historically designated. MCRC, residual injustices in the country and memorializing what has not been the best part of our history. The lynchings were documented in Rockville. She noted that the MCRC is interested in doing joint activities with the Rockville HRC.
- B. **NAACP Freedom Fund Event Recap** – Commissioner Olatoye reviewed the scholarship fund dinner on May15, 2022. She also announced she would be moving away from Rockville and accordingly would not seek reappointment to the HRC following the expiration of her term at the end of June. She also noted that the HRC would need to select a replacement for her spot at the MCRC.

**IX. New Business and Announcements** – None

**X. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.