



VT Human Rights Commission
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**VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES
December 6, 2018**

PRESENT: Commissioners: Kevin Christie, Chair, Mary Brodsky, Donald Vickers (by telephone) and Dawn Ellis (by telephone). Staff: Bor Yang, Executive Director; Nelson Campbell, Supervising Attorney; Melissa Horwitz and Cassandra Burdyslaw, Administrative Law Examiners; John McKelvie, Executive Staff Assistant (minutes). Commissioner Nathan Besio absent.

Commissioner Christie called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES: Commissioner Vickers moved to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2018 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brodsky. Vote 4-0 (Commissioner Besio absent)

Executive Director Yang introduced Commissioners to the two newest staff members, Administrative Law Examiner Cassandra Burdyslaw and Executive Staff Assistant John McKelvie.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Budget: The Executive Director attended a recent budget meeting and will update Commissioners at the January meeting on whether the HRC budget proposal has been approved.

Mediator Contracts: The Executive Director is still in the process of reviewing contracts and working with the Attorney General's office to discuss an insurance requirement. Commissioners discussed the possible creation of a mediator referral list.

HRC 30th Anniversary Celebration: The Executive Director led a discussion about a luncheon or event celebrating the HRC's 30th Anniversary. Commissioners made suggestions for planning the event and recommended reserving the Statehouse cafeteria for the event. ESA John McKelvie will lead the staff's planning process.

Activities: Staff members Nelson Campbell, Cassandra Burdyslaw, and Melissa Horwitz detailed their trip to the annual 2018 NFHTA Training Conference.

Executive Director Yang described a meeting with Kate Farley, the Outreach Coordinator with Bernie Sanders' Burlington office.

Executive Director Yang also detailed a 12/5/18 luncheon the HRC staff held with members of Vermont Legal Aid's Housing Discrimination Law Project.

ESA McKelvie described recent gender-neutral bathroom complaints, which the HRC will treat as informal cases through July 2019. The HRC will create educational and outreach materials that will be available on the HRC website.

Commissioners and staff members discussed improving the accessibility of the HRC website and complaint questionnaires, including streamlining the intake process.

Executive Director Yang described upcoming meetings with the Agency of Administration, the Legislative Counsel, and a retreat of the Governor's Workforce and Equity, Diversity Council.

Legislative Agenda for 2019-2020: Executive Director Yang detailed upcoming legislative items including the possible addition of 'homeless status' and 'survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and dating violence' to protected categories.

Commissioner Christie discussed the proposed Ethnic Studies bill and the role the HRC could take in creating background and educational material. Commissioners agreed to discuss each topic in more detail at future meetings when the language of each bill is available.

PRE-DETERMINATION CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS

Ward v. Mink Properties
HRC Case No. HV19-0003
HUD Case No. 01-18-0417-8

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Brodsky made a motion to go into executive session at 11:05 where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the HRC at substantial disadvantage. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vickers. Vote 3-0 (Commissioners Besio and Ellis absent).

Commissioner Christie brought the VHRC out of executive session at 11:30 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING – CONTINUED

Commissioner Brodsky moved to not file a case in HV18-0016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vickers. Vote 3-0 (Commissioners Besio and Ellis absent).

NEXT MEETING January 24, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32a.m..

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this ____ day of December 2018.

Respectfully submitted:



Bor Yang
Executive Director