

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**



**ADOPTED MINUTES*
OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

November 8, 2023
Via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Commissioners Present

Motoko Aizawa, Chairperson
Robert Baldwin
Henry Floyd
Karen Mulhauser
Anika Simpson
Toni Wiley

Stuart Anderson
Maria Burnett
Adam Maier
Colin Rettammel
Teri Janine Quinn

Commissioners Absent:

Charlotte Clymer
Lauren Lowery

Office of Human Rights Staff

James Yu, Associate Director of
Communications and Equity Programs
Hnin Khaing, Director
Juliet Niehuss, Deputy General Counsel

Commission on Human Rights Staff

Brandes Ash, ALJ
Matthew Wiedmayer, Law Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the meeting on January 10, 2024

MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Chairman Aizawa called the Commission's Official Meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Secretary Karen Mulhauser conducted the roll call.
- b. A total of 10 commissioners appeared at the outset of the meeting. All were present via telecommunication. A quorum was present.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- a. The agenda was adopted.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

- a. The meeting minutes were adopted by acclamation.

V. SWEARING IN – NEW AND REAPPOINTED COMMISSIONERS – ADMINISTERED BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF TALENT AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Antonesia Wiley
- b. Henry Floyd, Jr.
- c. Colin Rettammel
- d. Motoko Aizawa
- e. Karen Mulhauser
- f. Ter Janine Quinn
- g. Adam Maier, *nunc pro tunc*

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- a. OHR Director Hnin Khaing, gave the report, highlighting the following:
 - i. Budget: OHR is working on its FY24 budget.
 - ii. New Laws to Enforce: (1) Sexual Harassment Data Collection Act – requires government agencies to submit data on the number of Sexual Harassment Complaints, how many are resolved, and other data on Sexual Harassment Complaints. (2) Domestic Workers Fairness Act, discussed in last commission meeting, which extends DCHRA protections to domestic workers, which went into effect October 1, 2023. We are having a training, hosted by DOES and the Domestic Workers Alliance Group, on December 13 at 7:00 PM for training on DWFA.

- iii. There will be a hearing on December 6 on the Fairness in Human Rights Act (B25-319), regarding provisions about attorneys' fees, dismissal, and withdraw cases, and overall changing the process.
- iv. OHR has a new IT Specialist to upgrade the Case Management System and work on other IT improvements.
- v. OHR asked everyone to please spread the word about Universal Paid Family Leave Act, which requires private employees to receive paid family leave in certain circumstances. It also protects private employees from retaliation on the basis of taking paid family leave.

VII. FY 2023 YEAR END CASE DATA & COMMISSION CASE INVENTORY: BRANDES ASH

- a. Judge Ash, in place of Chief Judge Pierson, gave the report on commissioner updates and case management.
- b. A PowerPoint presentation summarizes all the data for FY23.

VIII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COMMISSION: CHAIR MOTOKO AIZAWA

- a. Last week, Chair Aizawa received an award for Outstanding Advocacy by the Association for Ethnic Studies via Howard University. She mentioned that the award is in recognition of the work of the Commission as a whole.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Reschedule 23 Protected Traits Training. Proposed Dates: February 7 or 14, 2024. This training is mandatory for all Commissioners. It appears that neither date works for all Commissioners. The Commission and OHR will look into possibly setting another date with consultation with Commissioners offline.
- b. New Commissioner **Training Part II**: November 29, 2023, at 6pm via Zoom by Chief Judge Erika Pierson.
- c. **Notice of Elections**: Pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-1404.04, Members of the Commission are notified that elections will be held at the regular meeting of the Commission on **January 10, 2024**, for the following positions: Vice-Chair and Secretary. Self-nominations are accepted. Officers shall serve for a period of one-year.
 - i. A question was asked and answered regarding the duties and responsibilities of the two positions. The Secretary is responsible for Commission meeting minutes, among other responsibilities.

- d. **Commissioner Terms Expiring 12/31/23 and seeking reappointment:** Maria Burnett and Adam Maier
- e. **Commissioner Resignations.** Farewell and thanks to Commissioner Anika Simpson, 6 years of service and Commissioner Lauren Lowery, 2 years of service.

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. Committee Reports

- a. Rules Committee – Last week, November 2, the newly constituted Rules Committee had a brief meeting to review of the policies we wish to change. We now have a fully constituted committee. Our next scheduled meeting is December 14th.
- b. Awards Committee – We are busy making our preparations, and there is more to be announced at a later date.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. There are trainings upcoming, such as the Domestic Worker Training on December 13, mentioned above.
- b. Maier - Please help me spread the word about the Youth Services Center on Saturdays to play basketball with the young people there.
- c. Mulhauser – I will be out a notice regarding a charity jewelry sale upcoming this Sunday and also December 3. An email is forthcoming.
- d. Commissioner Anderson – Makes notes of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday peace walk. For more information, please visit mlkholidaydc.org

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 7:42 adjourned.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS GALA DECEMBER 7, 2023, AT 5PM

441 4th Street, NW – Old Council Chamber

NEXT MEETING: January 10, 2024, at

6:30PM

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

A * G * E * N * D * A
November 8, 2023, at 6:30pm
Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dc-gov.zoom.us/j/81213715763?pwd=WkVwcUxiMHgxc3dpU3F0T09SN1E2dz09>

Meeting ID: 812 1371 5763

Passcode: 697050

Dial In: 301-715-8592

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Aizawa, Chair
- II. ROLL CALL – Commissioner Karen Mulhauser
- III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: September 13, 2023, Meeting
- V. SWEARING IN – NEW AND REAPPOINTED COMMISSIONERS – Mayor’s Office of Talent and Acquisition:
 1. Antonesia Wiley
 2. Henry Floyd, Jr.
 3. Colin Rettammel
 4. Motoko Aizawa
 5. Karen Mulhauser
 6. Ter Janine Quinn
 7. Adam Maier, *nunc pro tunc*
- VI. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: Director Hnin Khaing
- VII. FY 2023 Year End Case Data & COMMISSION CASE INVENTORY: Brandes Ash
- VIII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION: Motoko Aizawa

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X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Awards Committee – Commissioner Aizawa
- Rules Committee – Commissioner Baldwin

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

**HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS GALA
DECEMBER 7, 2023 AT 5PM
441 4th Street, NW – Old Council Chamber**

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