

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Joshua Brewster, Co- Chair

Exzavain Burkes, Co-Chair

Kelsey R.M. Bush, Commission Liaison



COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY:

James R. Guy, President

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Tom Jarboe, Commissioner

Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner

John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

St. Mary's County
Human Relations Commission
Minutes for October 12, 2017
Division of Human Services
5:30 pm

Agenda

The purpose of the Commission is "to encourage and ensure equal treatment to all, without regard to race, color, religion, ethical or moral conviction, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental handicap.

Members Present: Steve Hall, Vante Burkes, Joshua Brewster, Debra Dennie, Mary Ferns, Joanna Colvin. And Gary Younger

➤ **Call to Order:** 5:35 p.m.

Old Business:

K. Bush attend The 13th Discussion August 24 , Prince Fredrick Public Library 5:30 p.m. movie, discussion 7:15 p.m. for the HRC. He stated the program started with movie being shown, then a facilitated discussion followed amongst those who were assembled. The program was designed by High school students that were summer pages and was the kick-off event to a community wide conversation around race and equity. The Calvert Library system will be hosting multiple events.

➤ **New Business:**

a. Membership

K. Bush informed the members that in January there would be two vacancies in December with two more openings in June.

b. MLK Day Breakfast

On Monday, Jan. 15, the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be celebrated with the 14th Annual Southern Maryland Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast , at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The program will began at 8 a.m. at no cost, featuring a keynote address by Dr. Nandi Crosby-Jordan '91. A proud Baltimore native, Nandi Crosby-Jordan joined the faculty of California State University, Chico, in the fall of 1999. She earned a B.A. majoring in

psychology from St. Mary's College of Maryland (1991); an M.A. in Africana Women's Studies from Clark Atlanta University (1995); and a Ph.D. in sociology from Georgia State University (1999). She is currently the chair of the sociology department and holds a joint appointment in sociology and multicultural & gender studies. Her speech was unifying and uplifting. Following the program, beginning at 10 a.m. the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.©, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter hosted a Day of Service, providing services and activities for students of all ages and adults. The Day of Service included a panel discussion titled "The Color of Unity: Boldly Building Bridges across Communities," led by community members discussing the state of affairs in areas ranging from education and politics to religion and health. Additionally, the day of service included blood pressure screenings, a non-perishable food drive for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, a coat drive and a backpack giveaway for elementary and middle school students, and voter registration. The organizational committee will be meeting in February to debrief and begin preparing for next year's MLK breakfast marking the 15th year of the program.

c. Planning for the year and beyond

The members went through about an hour of brain storming and discussion for the up-coming year. The ideas fell into three areas: operational, outreach, and partnerships.

Operational suggestions:

1. Update the Bylaws
2. Guest Speakers at the meetings
3. Establishing Committees
4. Meet More Often
5. Target Membership, e.g. position on the HRC for Diversity VP from SMCM, etc.

Outreach suggestion:

1. Getting young people involved
 - a. Working with the Public Schools to establish Equity groups at the schools to discuss issues and school climate and how to fix them
 - b. Increase Public dialogue around community climate issues.
2. Being the investigator of discrimination claims for agencies, but only to find facts not fault.
3. Advising the Commissioners on Climate in the community and county government and suggesting the creation of a Diversity Coordinator.
4. Reviewing County policies and practices to inform the Commissioners on the trends in Hiring and other claims.

Partnerships:

1. Reach out to other organizations and boards to discuss how all can work together

2. Forum Co-Hosting with CSM, SMCM and the Library
3. Working on a large meeting with the county affinity commissions and community organizations to develop ways that all of the groups could be working together.

➤ **Adjournment: 7:45 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: K.Bush