

1. Call to Order: 8:36 AM
  - a. Commission members present:
    - i. Chairperson Arthur Pang
    - ii. J. Nicole Rhodes (Nikki)
    - iii. Tanya Vokes
    - iv. Kellie Ware, Esq.
    - v. Rev. Mary Ann Trifaro
    - vi. Leslie Paul Jamerson
  - b. Staff members present:
    - i. Ellen Buannic, Human Resources
    - ii. Erin Johnson, Equity and Inclusion

Chairperson Pang made a motion to bring the meeting to order, which was seconded by Commissioner Rhodes.

Chairperson Pang introduced the newest commissioner: J. Nicole Rhodes (Nikki). Commissioner Rhodes informed all present that she serves as associate legal counsel at the University of Pittsburgh, with areas of expertise in Civil Rights, Public Safety, and Litigation, among others. She expressed her enthusiasm and excitement in being appointed to the commission.

2. Introduction of Guests: Chairperson Pang noted there were no guests for this meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Trifaro motioned to approve the June 7, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jamerson and unanimously approved.
4. Chairperson's Update: Chairperson Pang discussed the remaining vacant commission seat and potential courses of action to fill it. One possibility is to leave the seat fillable by appointment of the incoming County Executive; another is to speak with Ms. Liebenguth about filling the seat prior to the general election in November. Commissioner Rhodes noted difficulty in being appointed to the commission with the impending general election; a County Council member voted against seating her to the commission, citing a preference to leave commission seats open for the next County Executive to fill.

Chairperson Pang reviewed the positions of Vice Chairperson and Motions Commissioner. He noted that he has been filling the role of Motions Commissioner, as he was appointed to it prior to becoming Chairperson. He also discussed the Review Groups that have remained unfilled due to the limited number of commissioners. With nearly a full commission at present, Chairperson Pang noted that preferably each Review Group would have racial, gender, and work experience diversity, and include a lawyer. Additionally, he asked the

commissioners to inform him if they have an interest serving as Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Pang asked Ms. Buannic if she knew whether a commissioner with a titled position is permitted to serve in a Review Group. Ms. Buannic will check with Ms. Liebenguth of the Law Department on this matter. He also asked whether a vote would be needed if Review Groups were set today. Ms. Buannic advised that she would also verify this with Ms. Liebenguth.

Tentatively, Chairperson Pang chose the groups as follows:

Review Group 1: Arthur Pang, Rev. Mary Ann Trifaro, and J. Nicole Rhodes;

Review Group 2: Leslie Paul Jamerson, Tanya Vokes, and Kellie Ware, Esq.

Chairperson Pang discussed historic practices and procedures of commission members.

With the commission previously unable to review and investigate challenges, the Law Department has been allowing cases for the commission to expire and mailing “Right to Sue” letters after the expiry period. Once the commission is again able to review cases, there can be thorough investigations and the commission can advise challengers to take a suit to court, or other legal avenue, or utilize a mediation option.

#### 5. Staff and Committee Reports

- a. Law Department: No updates. Ms. Liebenguth was not in attendance. Chairperson Pang advised Ms. Buannic to reach out to Ms. Liebenguth for any updates from the Law Department if she is unable to attend the next meeting.
- b. Human Resources Department: No updates
- c. Committee Reports: Committees within the ACHRC are currently unappointed. Chairperson Pang noted that many residents of Allegheny County are unaware of the commission as an option to address grievances. A previous committee initiative to spread awareness of the commission was the Diversity Awards. These awards challenged area high school students to submit a project, individually or as a group, pertaining to diversity or discrimination. Discussion among the commissioners about ways to raise awareness and engage community members ensued. Commissioner Rhodes asked if the commission has a social media presence. Ms. Buannic noted that there is not but discussion with Amie Downs from the County Communications Department could shed light on that possibility. She also noted that the County Executive could utilize their social media presence to raise community awareness of the commission.

#### 6. Community Events: Commissioner Jamerson shared information about the PUMP team’s program, Kickball for a Cause tournament taking place August 12 in Mellon Park.

Commissioner Ware shared that Homewood will be celebrating Native American Heritage Month this weekend, with a parade at 11 and fair afterward.

Commissioner Vokes shared that Dress for Success is raising funds with sidewalk sales at their newest location in Sharpsburg every Friday in September.

7. Strategic Initiatives and Process Improvement: None
8. Announcements and Open Floor: None
9. Adjournment: Chairperson Pang asked all present if there was a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ware made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 AM.

**Review Group #1 (Tentative)**

- Arthur Pang, Rev. Mary Ann Trifaro, and J. Nicole Rhodes

**Review Group #2 (Tentative)**

- Leslie Paul Jamerson, Tanya Vokes, and Kellie Ware, Esq.

**Motions Commissioner**

Arthur Pang