

## **WC Meeting Notes – 3/25/26**

**Attendance:** Chief Jill Muth, Director Amber Greene, Chair Kionne Abdul-Malik, Vice-Chair Miriam Carrion de Moore, Robin Neverdon, Ana Rodney, Sarasi Desikan and Guests: Lay and Dana

### **Quick recap**

The Women's Commission meeting focused on reviewing recent activities and planning future initiatives. The group discussed their successful Women's History Month event and celebrated its positive impact on the community. Director Greene and Chief Muth provided updates on legislative matters, including testimony submitted on the Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act and the Mental Health Screening Bill. The commission explored potential research partnerships with local health systems and universities, with Sarasi offering to develop structured opportunities for students to contribute to women's health research. Lay from Enoch Pratt Free Library shared details about workforce development programs, including the Women in Workforce Luncheon and upcoming entrepreneurship initiatives for teens. The conversation ended with discussions about upcoming events, including a planned Fair Housing Month collaboration and a potential Women Veterans Day event. Due to lack of quorum, some agenda items including priority definitions and event reviews were postponed to the next meeting scheduled for April 29th.

### **Next steps**

- Jill: Reach out to Dr. Deandra Poe in the next couple of weeks to plan the Women Veterans Day event on June 12th as a collaborative event with the Veterans Commission.
- Jill: Distribute the flyer by email about the food drive at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church to support immigrant families.
- Jill: Share the commission application link with all participants after the call.
- Sarasi: Structure a proposal/experience for research partnerships with local universities/medical/law/social work students and identify contacts at major hospitals focusing on women's health; reach out to contacts at University of Maryland and elsewhere.
- Jill: Send Sarasi a list of contacts for potential research collaborations.
- Lay: Send a list of Workforce Development Department programs and events to Miriam (and the group) for sharing with community contacts.

- Jill: Connect Lay with city procurement contacts to support youth entrepreneurs in accessing city procurement processes.
- Kionne: Send email to the full commission regarding the decision to leave commission priorities broadly defined (safety, engagement, health) and solicit input via email.
- Ana: Follow up to check the outcome of the Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act testimony/vote and update the group.
- Jill: Include Sarasi in the upcoming meeting with Dr. Poe regarding the Women Veterans Commission event.
- All commission members: Complete and submit financial disclosure forms by the 30th of the month to avoid fines.
- Kionne: Connect with Lay regarding potential mentors and judges for the teen entrepreneurship program's pitch day.
- Jill: Share information about upcoming Fair Housing Month events (including Mayflower Apartment presentation and Know Your Rights training) and connect interested parties with Danny and Jamel for participation.
- All interested parties: Suggest ADA-accessible community spaces for future in-person meetings to Jill.
- OECR: Send notification to all about the next quarterly commission chairs meeting.
- Ana: Email update to the group regarding the status/outcome of the Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act and House Bill 1118.

## **Summary**

### **Monthly Event Planning Discussion**

Kionne expressed enthusiasm about the recent gathering and proposed organizing monthly events, potentially evolving into bi-weekly meetings/check-ins. The group discussed the possibility of involving the First Lady in the Women's Commission, with plans to make a formal invitation. Kionne proposed organizing a Fair Housing Monthly event next, leveraging connections in affordable housing, particularly given the recent resource fair's connections with housing organizations for women.

### **Fair Housing Month Planning Meeting**

The meeting focused on planning for Fair Housing Month activities and potential collaborations. OECR's Community Relations Commission shared plans for upcoming events, including a housing fair and Know Your Rights training sessions, and offered to share information on how to get involved. Kionne expressed interest in aligning future events with monthly themes and requested to be looped in with OECR team members for further details. Lay and Dana introduced themselves as new attendees, with Lay representing the Workforce Development Department at Enoch Pratt Free Library and Dana expressing interest in contributing to Baltimore City's community initiatives.

### **OECR Updates and Upcoming Events**

The meeting focused on updates and upcoming events. OECR staff acknowledged the success of the Women's History Month event, particularly thanking Jill and Tamara for their planning efforts. Commissioners and staff were reminded to complete their financial disclosure forms by the 30th to avoid fines, with a link provided in the director's report. Upcoming events include the 2026 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony on March 31st, where Chair Abdul-Malik and Chief Muth are invited to attend, and OECR staff will present at the Mayflower Apartment on April 23rd as part of Fair Housing Month. The next meeting was scheduled for April 29th, which will be held in person.

### **Women's History Month Planning Updates**

Jill thanked Director Greene for supporting Women's History Month events and announced plans for Women Veterans Day on June 12th as a collaborative event with the Veterans Commission. She mentioned the release of their annual report and outlined plans for two multilingual community events in 2026, while also noting a current food drive supporting immigrant families. The team discussed reviewing applications for commission vacancies following Women's History Month, with Jill promising to share the application link after the call. Kionne acknowledged the meeting lacked quorum and noted they would be rearranging the agenda.

### **Academic Research Partnership Development**

Sarasi and Jill discussed developing research partnerships with local universities and academic centers, particularly focusing on women's health and marginalized populations. Jill explained that the initiative originated from a conversation at a Hopkins veterans event and mentioned previous outreach to UMD Law for legal research internships. Sarasi proposed structuring a fellowship program where students could work on capstone projects or research within the commission's priority areas, noting this could benefit both the organization and academic institutions by connecting them with vulnerable

populations. Jill agreed to provide Sarasi with contacts at universities and medical institutions to help establish these partnerships.

### **Workforce Development Programs Overview**

Lay presented the Workforce Development Department's programs at the Cathedral Street location, including Workforce Wednesdays, career clinics, and upcoming initiatives like the Prattpreneur teen entrepreneurship program and the Just Getting Started trade pipeline. She expressed interest in joining the Women's Commission in a more permanent capacity and discussed potential collaboration opportunities, including access to meeting spaces across the city's 22 branches. The group discussed connecting entrepreneurs with city procurement processes, and Lay shared her vision for the Women in the Workforce luncheon, which aims to recognize women in public service and provide educational micro-learning sessions.

### **Commission Priorities and Initiatives Update**

The meeting focused on updates and discussions regarding the commission's priorities and ongoing initiatives. Kionne reported that the commission submitted testimony for Bill 0536 with an 8-2 vote in favor. The commission discussed keeping their priorities broad, focusing on safety, health, and engagement of Baltimore City residents, rather than defining them narrowly. Ana provided an update on the Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act, sharing that testimony was submitted on Monday, though she needed to follow up on the bill's current status. The group also discussed plans for a Women Veterans Commission event and noted the lack of monuments honoring women veterans in Maryland. The next meeting was scheduled for April 29th at 6pm in person at the Office of Equity and Civil Rights.