

Commission to Examine Racial Inequity in the Law

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 2020

12:00pm – 2:00pm

1. Call to Order

Members Present:

Cythina Hudson
Andy Block
Hank Chambers
Hon. Jerrauld Jones, Sr.
Hon. Birdie Jamison
Carla Jackson
Hon. Mike Herring

Members Not Present:

Jill Hanken
Leslie Chamber Mehta

2. Public Comment

- a. No public comment received

3. Report on Legislative Status of Bills from Phase I

- a. Staff member Jessica Killeen presented status of all legislative bills proposed by the Commission as of 1/23/2020.

4. Administrative Items

- a. Cynthia Hudson will be departing from the Office of the Attorney General and will begin working in private practice. She will, however, remain on the Commission and continue to serve as chair.
- b. Next meeting of the Commission will be held just after Sine Die

5. Process Discussion

- a. Process suggestions for “Phase II”
 1. Cynthia, Andy, and Carla have taken a first look at next steps:
 1. Disparate impact & veiled discrimination
 2. They identified certain titles of the Code and suggested a focused review on the same topic areas that we had looked at for the Acts of Assembly and added a few more – criminal procedure, juvenile justice, , property and conveyances, Human Rights Act, Children’s Services Act, Consumer Protection Act, and Debt Collection Act
 3. Suggested narrowing focus of review by reference to areas of racial inequality that have been identified in research

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studies, e.g., higher rates of minorng incarceration; demonstrated disparate rates of educational achievement, etc.

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2. Mike Herring is concerned about the potential scope of the initial suggested research areas, but likes the idea of using studies to direct our course of action
3. Andy has students at the University of Virginia who want to work as researchers on the project
4. Judge Jones suggested starting with voting, criminal justice, and education
- 5.
6. Andy suggested we invite experts to discuss the work that they are doing and provide future path, feedback, and context as past experts have done at Commission meetings.
7. Judge Jamison
 1. Del. McQuinn's Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination (HB1519) is the type of work we should be pursuing
 2. Areas of interest: Education, Employment, Voting, Criminal Justice Reform
8. It was also suggested that we look into health and housing portions of the Code.

Initial areas of inquiry will be: Education, Voting, Criminal Justice, and Housing

- b. Assistance possibilities for "Phase II": In addition to student researchers in Andy's law school class, Jan Proctor (Opinions Counsel at the AG's office) has offered assistance.
- c. Commission Public Portal
 1. Aaron Puritz, Enterprise Digital IT Strategy Architect for the Office of the Governor, provided advice and input on creating a website as a resource for the Commission and for the public to provide input to the Commission.
 1. Form that is submitted to an inbox and then pulled onto an excel sheet for ease of use by the Commission.
 2. Development Question: What is the scope and the universe we want to open this up to?
 3. Put it out there on social media, in addition
 4. Feedback
 - a. Give an immediate message
 - b. Include information on the time and date of the next meeting is (provide link to the Commonwealth Calendar)
 - c. Send them a link to where they can download an electronic copy of the report

6. Adjournment

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- a. The next meeting will be held March 16, 2020