



## Frederick County Commission For Women

5370 Public Safety Place, 3rd Floor

Frederick, MD 21704

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### Public Meeting Minutes

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Commissioners Present:** Constance Baptist, Amanda Fleet, Evelyn Stevenson, Nina Carr, Karen Czapanskiy, Lakshmi Dharba, Annie Jones, Chloe Scott, Jaanai Priest, Lois Jarman

**Commissioners Absent:** Christine Ferguson, Kimba Green, Rosario Campos

## COMMISSIONERS

**Sharon Dobson**

*President*

**Constance Baptist**

*Vice President*

**Amanda Fleet**

*Recorder*

**Evelyn Stephenson**

*Treasurer*

**Rosario Campos**

*Member-at-Large*

Nina Carr

Karen Czapanskiy

Lakshmi Darbha

Christine Ferguson

Annie Jones

Chloe Scott

*The Commission for Women meets the second Tuesday of every month (except July) at 7:00pm. The public is invited.*

The Commission for Women is a program of the Frederick County Government

Interim President Constance Baptist called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. A quorum was present.

### I. Executive Committee Report

- a. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.
- b. Commissioner Baptist welcomed Jannai Priest as a new commissioner.
- c. Commissioner Karen Czapanskiy moved to approve the October Minutes, Commissioner Evelyn Stevenson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention.
- d. Guest Speaker: Michelle Siri, Executive Director of the Women's Law Center of Maryland
  - The Women's Law Center of Maryland aims to address discrimination against women through legal services, education and advocacy.

### II. Old Business

#### a. Human Trafficking Committee update

- Commissioner Annie Jones gave the update.
- On Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Human Trafficking Taskforce was approved by the County Council. It will be a fact-finding taskforce that will report to the council after a year.

#### b. SheLEADS

- Commissioner Jones gave the report.
- An information session for the students will be held on Friday November 11 at 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed to help with the information session.
- The SheLEADS committee decided to continue working with Frederick High only but has increased the number of participants from 15 to 20.
- The students will meet once a month on a Saturday. The last session will be an open house featuring the student's projects. It will be February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10-11:30 am. After the program is done the commission will take the students to the Women's Legislative Briefing. The theme for this year is "Finding Your Voice."
- SheLEADS now has a logo made by Stacie Spencer.

#### c. Legislative Committee

- The recommendations for legislation for the County Council to support were voted on and approved by the County Council on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### d. Marketing Committee

- The marketing committee is gearing up for marketing the Leadership Alliance Dinner.
- They are working on updating the website. Biographies and photos of commissioners need to be sent to Commissioner Baptist and Commissioner Fleet will prepare what is needed for the website.

#### e. Leadership Alliance Dinner Committee

***Our Mission: To create a stronger community by addressing challenges and fostering unlimited opportunities for all women.***

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- Commissioner Kimba Green has completed the sponsorship letters.

**f. Budget**

- Monica suggested sending a letter to Executive Gardener to inquire about funding for the Commission for Women. Commissioner Baptist will be drafting the letter with Commissioner Jones and will then send it.

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**III. New Business**

**a. Asian American Health Fair – October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Volunteer Terry Smith reported on the Asian American Health Fair. There were a variety of health services provided with 800 people being served and 200 volunteers participating. Emma Stanley, our intern, staffed the booth.
- Commissioner Jones suggested volunteering instead of having a booth for next year.

**b. Maintaining Booths at Events**

- There was a discussion on whether or not we should continue to pay for as many booths because we are having difficulty staffing them. Commissioner Nina Carr suggested quantifying our results from events in some way. Commissioner Jones suggested using the website Volunteer Spot to manage volunteers for running the booth at events. Commissioner Baptist suggested that we decide what events for which we would like to have tables in July at our planning meeting. It was brought up that commissioners were very diligent about being present at city and county proclamations.

**c. Changes in the Commission**

- Sharon Dobson resigned as president and thus Vice President Constance Baptist has become our interim president. She has planned a retreat on Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> to regroup and work on how we will move forward.
- At the retreat, we will discuss how administrative tasks will be completed, when we will vote on a new president, and what our focus should be for the immediate future.

**d. Commissioner and volunteer announcements**

- Volunteer Terri Smith asked if we would like to volunteer to help with the Centro Hispano Christmas party again this year. She will send more information in an e-mail.
- Commissioner Carr would like to have an event to address the concerns from women in Frederick. Other suggestions were to have a "Walk for Women" or a candlelight vigil.
- Commissioner Jones suggested that we have a forum with the Muslim women in Frederick County.

**e. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.**

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