PRINCE WILLIAM
Human Rights

Human Rights Commission
Curtis Porter, Chairman
Evelyn BruMar, Vice Chair
Ramunda Young, Parliamentarian
William A. Johnston, III
Padreus D. Pratter
Benjamin Baldwin
Kimberly Sparkes
Victoria D. Staubly
Russell Young

Raul Torres
Executive Director

October 8, 2026

Minutes of September 10, 2026
Human Rights Commission
James J. McCoart Building – Occoquan Room

MINUTES

Chair
Curtis O. Porter
Vice Chair
Evelyn BruMar
Parliamentarian
Ramunda Young

Members
William Johnston
Kimberly Sparkes
Padreus D. Pratter
Victoria D. Staubly
Benjamin Baldwin
Russell Young

Present: Commissioners: Vice Chair, Evelyn BruMar; William Johnston; Russell Young; Benjamin Baldwin; Victoria D. Staubly; Padreus D. Pratter; Kimberly Sparkes; Director, Raul Torres; and Administrative Specialist, Tiffany Jones.

Vice Chair BruMar called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Citizens Time

- There were no citizens present.

Old Business

The minutes of the July 9, 2026, meeting were approved (Baldwin moved/Staubly seconded).

New Business

- Resolution to Declare, Affirm, and Recognize the Month of September 15 to October 15, 2026, as Hispanic Heritage Month (Staubly moved/Baldwin seconded). Resolution passed 7/0

- Resolution to Declare, Affirm, and Recognize the Month of October 2026 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (Baldwin moved/Staubly seconded). Resolution passed 7/0

Committee Reports

Jail Board

- The next Jail Board meeting will be held on September 16, 2026. The board meets every third Wednesday of each month.

Racial Social Justice Task Force

- On August 13, 2026, the RSJ Task Force met with guest speaker Susan Washington, Director of Human Resources for Prince William County, who delivered a presentation to the Task Force.
- The meeting focused heavily on veterans' preference, specifically examining what factors Prince William County takes into account when veterans apply.
- Ms. Washington also mentioned that the HR team is expanding its outreach efforts by engaging with affinity groups—such as PROUD, OA (Hispanic), and a disability group—with six more groups on the way. Additionally, they are increasing their participation in job fairs and community events.
- During the next meeting, the Task Force will host Dr. Charmelle Akins, Chief Equity Officer for Prince William County Public Schools, to speak on the school's updates.

Director's Report

- A motion was brought to the commission to authorize the settlement approval of 202605-PWHRO-022-E. (Baldwin moved/Staubly seconded) passed 7/0
- A motion was brought before the commission to authorize the settlement approval of 202509-PWHRO-034-PA. (Baldwin moved/Young seconded) passed 7/0
- The office is currently closing out FY27 and working on the FY28 budget, with no requests for additional funding submitted for FY28. However, because the office is developing a new case management system, it may request additional funds during the FY29 budget cycle.
- The HRO currently has two open Investigator vacancies. To support the office during this transition, a backup investigator has been enlisted to assist until the new hires are on board. In addition, the office has met its contract with the EEOC to close 33 employment cases.
- Student Leadership Orientation will be held on October 26th. We are currently in the recruitment phase, working with the schools to raise awareness and enroll students.

- Prince William Living magazine will be rolling out two additional articles about our office. The fourth article will focus on the Student Leadership Council, starting with the orientation and covering each session. The fifth and final article will highlight Universal Human Rights Day and run during our nomination period, helping to reach a broader community audience and encourage participation.
- On Thursday, September 3rd, the office hosted a well-attended webinar titled Fair Housing and Assistance Animals: Understanding Your Rights. The webinar will be followed by a newsletter focusing on assistance animals and current government updates.
- On Saturday, September 12th, the police department will host their Sixth Annual Community Fair at 1 County Complex, starting at 12:00 PM. The office will attend and also participate in Casa BruMar's Fifth Annual LGBTQIA+ Symposium on September 19th.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

Padreus D. Pratter – Commissioner Pratter shared with the commission that he has been appointed to Governor Abigail Spanberger's Criminal Services Board.

William Johnston – Commissioner Johnston wanted to congratulate ICE on doing a good job with the deportations of criminals and hoped they continue to do what they are doing.

Russell Young – Commissioner Young shared that the Town of Dumfries hosted a 'Cops, Cones & Council' event on Saturday, September 12th, inviting the community to meet police officers and council members over ice cream. Additionally, the town hosted its Dumfries Fall Festival on September 26th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Garrison Park. Finally, the Town of Dumfries recently completed its inaugural 'Labor of Love Minor Home Repair Program,' through which volunteers performed minor home repairs for elderly residents and veterans, with plans to expand the event next year.

Benjamin Baldwin – Commissioner Baldwin shared that he attended the 25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony before coming to today's meeting. He recalled being a junior in high school when the attacks happened, which inspired him to join the Marine Corps. He emphasized the importance of remembering 9/11 and holding onto the unity that followed, specifically recalling President George W. Bush's address at Ground Zero.

Victoria Staubly – Commissioner Staubly shared that she will be working the LGBTQIA+ Symposium on September 19th and will also attend the Human Rights networking event in Richmond on October 3rd.

Kimberly Sparkes- Commissioner Sparkes apologized for missing the last meeting and stated she was happy to attend today. She also requested recommendations for a speaker who can talk to the youth about the value and importance of voting.

Evelyn BruMar – Vice Chair BruMar announced that Casa BruMar will host its 5th Annual LGBTQIA+ Symposium on September 19th from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. This year's event will take place at her new resource center, the first LGBTQIA+ community center in Greater Prince William—which is also the area's first center to offer wrap-around services, including mental health providers, medical care, and social services.

The event is open to anyone in need of support. Coffee and light pastries will be provided. Event highlights include a 'Know Your Rights' presentation by Director Torres, an educational session on AI, a Narcan training and distribution session, and legislative updates from Senator Danica Roem and Supervisor Kenny Boddye.

Commissioner BruMar also attended the 9/11 ceremony, where she reflected on the powerful stories shared during the event. She noted the lasting health impacts of the tragedy, highlighting that poor air quality at Ground Zero has tragically claimed more lives in the years since than were lost on 9/11 itself.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DUE DATE	STATUS

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
Employment	2	1	
Housing		1	
Public Accommodation	1	1	
Education			
Credit			
TOTAL			65