

Rabbi Dovid Asher appointed to governor's new commission



On August 24, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed Executive Order number 69 to establish The Commonwealth Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

The commission is chaired by Rabbi Jack Moline, executive director of Interfaith Alliance, and Chief Deputy Attorney General Cynthia Hudson.

The membership of the commission represents the broad diversity of Virginia and includes community religious leaders, minority leaders, elect-

ed officials, and educators from across the state.

Rabbi Dovid Asher serves on the subcommittee for racial healing led by Jonathan Zur, CEO and president of Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.

In the aftermath of the events in Charlottesville, the governor sought to confront hatred, bigotry and violence. It's written in the Executive Order, "It would be naïve to think that any one commission can solve the problems of inequality, intolerance,

and violence that this nation has wrestled with throughout its existence. However, by focusing narrowly on the circumstances that led to the events in Charlottesville, we can develop actionable proposals to bolster the many other efforts happening across this government and this Commonwealth to erase hatred, bigotry, and intolerance in Virginia and replace them with diversity, equity, and inclusion."

The commission is charged with identifying intolerant laws, identifying partnerships to promote a culture of diversity, and hosting events to promote public dialogue. In addition, the commission is to explore reasons behind extremism, recommend

best practices for identifying extremists, and collecting best practices on assisting individuals who have already succumbed to extremist groups. The final report is due to be submitted to the Governor by Nov. 15, 2018.

Other subcommittees include racial narrative, separation, and the law. The Kellogg Foundation will be assisting in the facilitation of these meetings and outcomes.

The first meeting took place on October 10. At that time, in his video remarks, the governor encouraged the commission to be results-driven and critical in its work; hopefully Virginia will be at the forefront of inclusion.