

Minutes of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session
February 3, 2022

Attendance:

Present: Jack Block, Chair Angie Cowan Hamada, Ceylan Eatherton, Gia Orr, Amber Smock, Sufyan Sohel, Anjali Waikar

Absent: S. Mayumi Grigsby, Rev. Richard Tolliver

Staff: Director S. Baker, Deputy Director J. King, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Investigator J. Brown, Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Eppin-Zapf, Administrative Analyst K. Johns

I. Open Session

A. Call to Order

Chair Hamada called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

B. Statements by the General Public

There were no statements by the public.

C. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

D. Approval of the December 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Open Minutes

The meeting minutes to the December 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

E. Director's Report

Director Baker reported that there had been 89 intakes and 13 new cases filed. Deputy Director King stated that the Complaint Information Sheet Form has been removed due to confusion and based on feedback from community groups. She noted that staff will develop guidance for parties on how to navigate the Commission, including filing a complaint. Director Baker reported that there were four pending administrative hearing cases. Director Baker reported that staff continues to provide regular trainings, including Just Housing and COVID-19 vaccination rights. She stated that staff recently published information about the minimum wage in Cook County related to tipped workers as well as the bi-weekly Human Rights newsletter.

F. Commissioner's Updates

Commissioner Smock discussed access to vote and the legislative process for individuals with disabilities. She noted that Access Living is leading the Legislative Accessibility Act, which conducts conversations with the architect of the capital and others involved with the legislature to ensure that there are designated individuals who can handle requests for disability accommodations, so that people can participate in public hearing and access board sessions, etc. She also stated that Access Living has been working to ensure that people with disabilities have full access to vote by mail. Commissioner Orr provided an update on the Illinois House Bill 5558, which amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to provide the Illinois Department of Human Rights power to intervene in complaints pending at its Human Rights Commission.

G. Commission 180-Day Extension for Investigation

a. 2021E005 Clara Davis v. Melvin Evans

The request for extension in 2021E005 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

II. Executive Session

At 10:28 a.m., the Board adjourned into Executive Session.

III. Open Session

At 11:41 a.m., the Board convened back into Open Session.

K. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items if any

A motion was made by Commissioner Smock, seconded by Commissioner Sohel, to accept and issue the Source of Income memo. The vote of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Chair Hamada, Commissioners Block, Eatherton, and Orr (6)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: Three (3)

The motion CARRIED and the Source of Income Memo was accepted.

L. Adjourn

By unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.