

Minutes of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session
July 21, 2022

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Attendance via video:

Present: Jack Block, Vice Chair S. Mayumi Grigsby, Gia Orr, Amber Smock, Sufyan Sohel, Rev. Richard Tolliver

Staff Present via video: Director S. Baker, Deputy Director J. King, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator O. Cobbins, Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf, Administrative Analyst K. Johns, Executive Assistant A. Sumpter

Open Session

A. Call to Order

Vice Chair Grigsby called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

B. Statements by the General Public

There were no statements by the public.

C. Agenda Approval

A motion approving the agenda as amended was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of the May 26, 2022, Regular Meeting Open Minutes

The meeting minutes to the May 26, 2022, Regular Meeting Open Minutes were approved and adopted by unanimous vote.

E. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Director Baker announced the candidacy of Commissioner S. Mayumi Grigsby to the position of commission Chair and the candidacy of Commissioner Gia Orr to the position of Vice Chair. Director Baker asked to entertain a motion to vote on the candidates. The Commission unanimously voted to elect Commissioner Grigsby to Chair and Commissioner Orr to Vice Chair.

F. Introduction of Human Rights Investigator O. Cobbins

Director Baker introduced Human Rights Investigator O. Cobbins to the commissioners.

G. Commissioners' Updates

Commissioner Smock reported the Disability Pride Parade would kick off on July 23, 2022, at 11 AM. Commissioner Smock invited the rest of the commission to attend, and Director Baker stated commission staff would highlight the event on its social media networks.

H. Professor Martha Davis Consultation

Chair Grigsby introduced the idea to bring Professor Martha Davis, professor at Northeastern School of Law, to present her research to the commission at a special meeting. Director Baker stated commission staff would schedule a special meeting with Professor Davis for early October.

I. Working Group Updates

Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf updated the commission on Cook County Racial Equity Week, occurring September 12 through September 16. She also reported on outreach opportunities at Fiesta Del Sol in Little Village and Village Unity Night in Park Forest, IL.

Per the Strategic Planning working group, Vice Chair Orr and Commissioner Smock presented strategic planning ideas to the commission. Vice Chair Orr stated the working group would develop a vision statement that aligns with the Office of the President's Five-Year Policy Road Map.

J. Director's Report

Director S. Baker reported that there was a significant increase of inquiries and cases filed since the last board meeting. Director S. Baker reported that settlements, including payments of over \$20,000, were reached during the last period. She noted that the cases dismissed by the Executive Review Committee were dismissed largely for jurisdictional issues. Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf reported that the Cook County Minimum Wage website was one of the most visited websites as a result of the minimum wage increase and press conference done in partnership with Arise Chicago. She also stated the department has been organizing more training opportunities, including one conducted with HAAC and the Cicero Public Library.

K. Commission 180-Day Extension for Investigation

180-day extension for investigation was approved by unanimous vote on 2021PA003.

Closed Session

At 11:23 a.m., the Board unanimously voted to move into Executive Session.

Open Session

At 11:47 a.m., the Board reconvened to Open Session.

O. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items

The Commission unanimously approved a motion to enter and continue the motion for Individual Right of Action per 2021JHA013 and to set a hearing for the September 15, 2022 meeting. The Commission also unanimously approved the changes to the Source of Income Memorandum.

The meeting minutes to the May 26, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes were approved and adopted by unanimous vote.

P. Adjourn

By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.