

**Minutes of the Cook County  
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session  
November 30, 2023, at 10:00 am**

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Location: 69 W Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room D

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski, DHRE Staff

**Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

***Open Session***

**A. Call to Order**

- Chair Sohel called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**B. Statements by the General Public**

- J. Lupera made a comment before the Commission.

**C. Agenda Approval**

- A motion to approve the agenda was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

**D. Approval of the October 5, 2023, Regular Meeting Open Minutes**

- A motion to approve the October 5, 2023, regular meeting open minutes was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

**E. Commissioners' Updates**

- Limitation of Just Housing Amendment and how it affects persons with disabilities.

- 4 Vacancies on the Commission.

**F. Director's Report**

- The number of cases pending at stages has remained the same since last meeting.
- Decrease in the number of intakes filed.
- 5 cases closed.
- Outreach: Budget approval to onboard 2 additional outreach and training coordinators. Update on events and training attended to continue departmental efforts to spread awareness of Cook County Human Rights and Ethics ordinances and protections.
- Policy: Paid leave ordinance effective January 1, 2024.

**G. 2023 JHA Report – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to receive the 2023 JHA Report was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

**H. 2024 Board Meeting Calendar – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar with 2 date changes was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

**I. Investigation Extension Request**

- A motion to approve the Investigation Extension Requests was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

***Closed Session***

- A motion to move into Executive Session for discussions as identified in the agenda was made and carried by unanimous voice vote at 10:46 am.

### ***Open Session***

- At 11:07 am the Board reconvened to Open Session.

### **L. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any**

#### **I. Approval of the October 5, 2023, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes**

- A motion to approve the October 5, 2023, regular meeting closed minutes was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

#### **II. Orders on Requests for Reconsideration**

- A motion to deny the Orders on Request for Reconsideration was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, Michael Lapinski, Rev. Richard Tolliver
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Ceylan Eatherton

### **M. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made and carried by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Minutes submitted by Board staff.