

**Minutes of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session
March 14, 2024, at 10:00 am**

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Location: 69 W Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602
22nd Floor, Conference Room H

Attendance:

Present: Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock, DHRE Staff

Absent: Commissioners Ceylan Eatherton, Rev. Richard Tolliver, and Michael Lapinski

Open Session

A. Call to Order

- Chair Sohel called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

B. Statements by the General Public

- No statements by the general public.

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
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Commissioners Ceylan Eatherton, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski

D. Approval of the January 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Minutes

- A motion to approve the January 18, 2024, regular meeting open minutes was made and carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Commissioners Ceylan Eatherton, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski

E. Commissioners' Updates

- Commissioner Smock shared information about Access Living Open House on Thursday, May 2, 2024, 12: 00 pm – 5: 00 pm.

F. Director's Report

- The number of cases pending at stages has increased in the last quarter.
- Increase in the number of intakes processed.
- 17 new cases filed during quarter.
- 11 cases closed.
- Policy: Paid Leave Ordinance Amendment passed by the Cook County Committee on March 12, 2024. The Paid Leave Procedural rules were approved and went to the Cook County Board on March 14, 2024. If approved, they will be made available for applicable employers and employees in Cook County to use as guidance for compliance. Proposed amendment to the Paid Leave Ordinance to exclude school districts from the definition of employer. Legislations and Intergovernmental Committee deferred this item on February 28. The item # is 24-1233.
- Outreach: Update on events and training attended to continue departmental efforts to spread awareness of Cook County Human Rights and Ethics ordinances and protections. Specifically training on the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance, Fair Housing and the Just Housing Amendment. Communications, the Human Rights Newsletter continues to grow in the number of subscribers. Shared calendar of upcoming outreach events happening throughout the County.

G. 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
 - **Nays**: None
 - **Absent**: Commissioners Ceylan Eatherton, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski

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 10:48 am.

Open Session

- At 10:54 am the Board reconvened to Open Session.

I. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any

I. Approval of the January 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes

- A motion to approve the January 18, 2024, regular meeting closed minutes with an edit to the year "2023" to "2024" was made and carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Jack Block, Amber Smock
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** Commissioners Ceylan Eatherton, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski

J. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.

Minutes submitted by Board staff.