

**Minutes of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session
August 28, 2024, at 10:00 am**

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Location: 69 W Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602
11th Floor, Suite 1130

Attendance:

Present: Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Michael Lapinski, Jack Block, Charles Isaacs, and DHRE Staff

Absent: Commissioners Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Dr. Simone Griffin, Director King

Open Session

A. Call to Order

- Chair Sohel called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

B. Statements by the General Public

- One statement by the general public.

C. Agenda Approval

- A motion to approve the agenda was made and carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Michael Lapinski, Jack Block, Charles Isaacs
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Commissioners Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Dr. Simone Griffin

D. Approval of the July 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Open Minutes

- A motion to approve the July 23, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Minutes was made and carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Michael Lapinski, Jack Block, Charles Isaacs
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Commissioners Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Dr. Simone Griffin

E. Commissioners' Updates

- Welcome Commissioner Charles Isaacs
- Request by Chair Sohel to continue to share Commission application with professional network to fill vacant seats.

F. Director's Report

- Legal Counsel reported on third quarter data.

- Number of intakes slight decreased and the number of inquiries has increased.
- New cases filed has decreased in the third quarter. One matter pending settlement. Three cases closed for lack of substantial evidence and two cases pending administrative hearings.
- Shared information on the launch of the Commissions new Case Management System on September 3, 2024.
- Policy: Director and Policy Analyst held six (6) Paid Leave Town halls for suburban Park and School Districts, created and distributed a memo of key take-aways. Commission staff would like to continue discussion on potentially clarifying in Human Rights Ordinance Substantive and Procedural Rules the circumstances during which a Respondent would not be served at the next Commission meeting. Three IAOHRA Resolutions presented at IAOHRA Annual Training Conference were presented and passed.
- Outreach: Outreach and training coordinator provided updates on events and trainings 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, and Equity Fund Recommendation 2.2. There was a request for Commissioner engagement at specific upcoming outreach events. The Human Rights Newsletter continues to grow almost two thousand subscribers!

G. Investigation Extension Request

- A motion to approve 9 Investigation Extension Requests was made and carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes**: Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Michael Lapinski, Jack Block, Charles Isaacs
 - **Nays**: None
 - **Absent**: Commissioners Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Dr. Simone Griffin

H. Proposed Amendments to Paid Leave Procedural Rules – Review and Vote

- A motion to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Paid Leave Procedural Rules as amended was made and carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes**: Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Michael Lapinski, Jack Block, Charles Isaacs
 - **Nays**: None
 - **Absent**: Commissioners Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Dr. Simone Griffin

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 11:21 am.

Open Session

- At 11:27 am the Board reconvened to Open Session.

I. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any

I. Approval of the July 23, 2024, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes

- A motion to approve the July 23, 2024, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes was made and carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Michael Lapinski, Jack Block, Charles Isaacs
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Commissioners Amber Smock, Rev. Richard Tolliver, Dr. Simone Griffin

J. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.

Minutes submitted by Board staff.