

**Minutes of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session
January 29, 2026 at 10:00 am**

Location: 69 W Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602
22nd floor, Conference Room F

Attendance:

Present: Chair Sufyan Soheli, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Michael Lapinski and DHRE Staff.

Absent: Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.

Open Session

A. Call to Order

- Chair Soheli called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

B. Statements by the General Public

- W. Lupera submitted an online comment regarding their recently closed complaint.

C. Agenda Approval

- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and seconded by Commissioner Jack Block. The motion was carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Soheli, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Michael Lapinski
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.

D. Approval of the November 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Open Minutes

- A motion to approve the November 13, 2025 regular meeting open minutes was made by Commissioner Rev. Richard Tolliver and seconded by Commissioner Michael Lapinski. The motion was carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Soheli, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Michael Lapinski
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.

E. Commissioners' Updates

- Best wishes and special thank you, Commissioner Amber Smock who resigned from the Commission after 9 years of service.

F. Director's Report

- Director King provided updates for the first half of the first quarter of FY26. For the first half of quarter 1 in FY26 there are 215 cases pending at all stages, 36 new cases filed and 24 cases closed.
- Policy: Data fellows provided updates on the Just Housing Amendment (JHA) Impact Assessment in collaboration with Roosevelt University. The Impact Assessment Included 154 survey responses and 20 interviews with individuals who have arrest or conviction records and have searched for housing in the past five years. Roosevelt University has completed a draft of the report with Commission staff input and they are working on finalizing the design of the report. The FY25 Human Rights Report draft is in progress, and it includes 2025 highlights, trends and updates from policy and outreach efforts. Lastly, the Commission has created an internal procedure for drafting substantive and procedural rules and creating a standard public notice and comment period.
- Outreach: One of the Outreach and Training coordinators provided updates on events and trainings attended to continue departmental efforts to spread awareness of Cook County Human Rights and Ethics ordinances and protections. Commissioners were invited to DHRE's first Human Rights Day event on December 10th at the National Public Housing Museum and the recap video of the event can be found on [Youtube](#). The Human Rights newsletter has increased to 2,507 subscribers.

G. Investigation Extension Requests – Commission Review and Vote

- A motion to approve the Investigation Extension Requests for Case Nos. 2025PA00456, 2025PL00458, 2025E00406, 2025PL00470, 2025PA00473, 2025H00488, 2025E00490, 2025PL00501, 2025H00439, 2025E00427, 2025PL00262, 2025PL00278, 2025E00281, 2025PL00283, 2025PL00285, 2025H00287, 2025PL00295, 2025PL0494, 2025PA0476, 2025E0449, 2025PL0441, 2025E0436, 2025ESL0301, 2025E0299, 2025PL0288, 2025H0284, 2025PL0282, 2025PL0279, 2025PL0271, 2025PL0275, 2025PL0270, 2024PL0250, 2024PL0210, 2024E0177, 2025H00276, 2025PA00445 was made by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and seconded by Commissioner Rev. Richard Tolliver. The motion was carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Michael Lapinski
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.

Closed Session

- A motion to move into the Executive Session for discussions as identified in the agenda was made by Commissioner Jack Block and seconded by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and carried out by unanimous voice vote at 10:27 a.m.

Open Session

- At 11:26 a.m. the Commission reconvened to Open Session.

L. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any

a. November 13, 2025, Regular Closed Meeting Minutes – Commission Vote

- A motion to approve the November 13, 2025, Regular Closed Meeting Minutes was made by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and seconded by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma. The motion was carried by the following vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Michael Lapinski
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.
 - **Abstain:** Commissioner Jack Block

b. Intervention – Circuit Court Case No. 25L014516 – Commission Vote

- A motion to intervene in Circuit Court Case No. 25L014516 was made by Commissioner Jack Block and seconded by Commissioner Michael Lapinski. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block, Pushkar Sharma, Michael Lapinski
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.
 - **Abstain:** Commissioner Charles Isaacs

c. Administrative Hearings Order 2023PA005 (2023PA00150)– Commission Vote

- A motion to adopt ALJ’s recommendation findings order for damages and attorney fees in case no. 2023PA005 was made by Commissioner Rev. Richard Tolliver and seconded by Commissioner Michael Lapinski. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:
 - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block, Pushkar Sharma, Michael Lapinski
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.
 - **Abstain:** Commissioner Charles Isaacs

d. 2025E00373 Request for Reconsideration – Commission Vote

- A motion to deny the request for reconsideration in case no. 2023E00373 with the changes as discussed in executive session was made by

Commissioner Michael Lapinski and seconded by Commissioner Charles Isaacs. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block, Pushkar Sharma, Michael Lapinski, and Commissioner Charles Isaacs
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Hedy Ratner and Shobana Verma.

M. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma and seconded by Commissioner Rev. Richard Tolliver and carried by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Commission staff.