

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
February 25, 2015
10:30 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Merri Dee
Lauren Beth Gash
Rozanne Ronen
Diane M. Viverito
David J. Walsh
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

Nabi Fakroddin

Staff

LaNade Bridges
Dr. Ewa Ewa
Michael Evans
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine M. Welninski

Members of Public:

None.

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NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On February 25, 2015 at 10:30 a.m., Chairman Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Nabi gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that he would not be able to attend the February 25, 2015 meeting.
- 2) Commissioner Ronen arrived a few minutes after the roll call.

II. Consideration of Minutes

January 28, 2015

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of January 28, 2015 as amended. The minutes were amended to correct the day of the meeting from January 25, 2015 to January 28, 2015 and to reflect that Lanade Bridges was in attendance. Motion to approve the January 28, 2015 minutes as amended made by Commissioner Dee and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 11-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro reported that there is no news regarding the reappointment of HRC Commissioners. Chairman Castro reminded the Commission that March 19, 2015 is the deadline for the expiration of Commissioner's terms.

Chairman Castro reported that he will be attending the Senate appropriations meeting next week along with Director Chambers.

IV. Staff Reports

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

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Mr. Chambers was not able to attend the February 25, 2015 meeting, and he submitted a written report.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Dr. Ewa reported that he is having on-going discussions with the Office of Management and Budget regarding the Commission's budget. Dr. Ewa reported that HRC's FY16 budget would reflect and mirror the submitted FY16 Maintenance budget in the amount of \$2,099,400.

Dr. Ewa reported that there will be no funds to fill staff vacancies.

Dr. Ewa reported that there will funds to complete the purchase of new computers for the Commission.

Dr. Ewa reported that he will also be attending the Senate appropriations meeting next week.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Evans gave the report for the month of January 2015.

D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray reported that she spoke to the Governor's liaison concerning Commissioner reappointments. Ms. Gray informed the Commission that there was no news on the matter. Ms. Gray will update the Commission as she receives any information.

Ms. Gray gave general reminders concerning timesheets, annual ethics training, and Statements of Economic Interest.

Ms. Gray briefly spoke on Executive Order 15-09.

Ms. Gray briefly reported that offers for summer Coles Fellows have been sent out.

Ms. Gray that reported that the Commission's new Public Information Officer is Michael Theodore.

Ms. Gray reported that Ms. Ngozi Okorafor has been appointed the new Chief Legal Counsel for the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

Ms. Gray distributed recent Employment & Labor Law updates.

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V. New Business

None

VI. Old Business

None

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Executive Session

None

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Ronen, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel