

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
August 19, 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

Chair Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias
Duke Alden
Robert A. Cantone
Hamilton Chang (via telephone)
Terry Cosgrove
Nabi Fakhroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Hermene Hartman
Diane M. Viverito
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

In Springfield

Steve Kim
David J. Walsh

Absent

None

Staff

LaNade Bridges
Reva Bauch
N. Keith Chambers
Dr. Ewa Ewa
Michael Evans
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora

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Christine M. Welninski
Emma Wilson (volunteer)

Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

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

I. Call to Order

On August 19, 2015 at 10:45 a.m., Chair Bombela-Tobias called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. The En Banc meeting started late due to the Commission's outreach committee meeting of August 19, 2015 running slightly long.

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.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Chang gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that he would be unable to be physically present for the meeting. Commissioner Chang requested to participate via telephone.
- 3) Motion to allow Commissioner Chang to participate via telephone made by Commissioner Cantone, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 11-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

July 22, 2015

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2015 meeting as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the July 22, 2015 minutes as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Gash and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Chair's Report

Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias, Chair

Chair Bombela-Tobias reported that she will be meeting with Rocco J. Claps, Executive Director of the Illinois Human Rights Department ("DHR") on today's date.

Chair Bombela-Tobias that she will be making several presentations regarding the Commission in the month of September.

Chair Bombela-Tobias reported that there was no news regarding the state budget.

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IV. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Mr. Chambers also reported that there was no news on the state budget.

Mr. Chambers reported that he is still waiting for the results of the yearly audit.

Mr. Chambers reported that labor negotiations between the State of Illinois and the Union representing the state employees were still ongoing.

Mr. Chambers reported that prior to the En Banc meeting, the Commission's outreach committee met and that the meeting was very productive.

Mr. Chamber announced that Deputy Administrative Law Judge Reva Bauch was leaving the Commission.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that there was nothing new to report regarding the state budget.

Dr. Ewa reported that since the state budget has not been approved all hiring and major purchases have been placed on hold.

Dr. Ewa reported on today's date he will be meeting with other state Chief Financial Officers regarding the state budget situation.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans gave the report for the month of July, 2015.

Chief Judge Evans acknowledged Deputy Administrative Law Judge Bauch for her service with the Commission. Deputy Administrative Law Judge Bauch was given a plaque in appreciation of her work with the Commission.

D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray advised the Commissioners that they would be provided State email addresses for the purpose of conducting State business, and that personal emails should not be used for State business. Dr. Ewa informed the Commission that State email accounts can be obtained in 72 hours.

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Ms. Gray further advised the Commission that emails regarding Commission business are subject to FOIA request.

Ms. Gray distributed the 2016 Commission meeting calendar. Ms. Gray advised the Commissioners to review the calendar and advise her of possible conflicts or changes.

Ms. Gray reported that in an unpublished decision, the Illinois Appellate Court has upheld the Commission's decision in Katrina Miles v. Windsor Clothing Store, Charge No. 08CP2590. Ms. Gray further reported that she had filed a motion to make the decision published and precedential, and that she would advise the Commission on the outcome of the motion.

Ms. Gray took time to recognize and give thanks to the summer volunteer Emma Wilson. Ms. Wilson was given a framed certificate in recognition for her service with the Commission.

Ms. Gray announced that the Fall 2015 Coles Fellow will begin on September 9, 2015.

V. New Business

None

VI. Old Business

Chair Bombela-Tobias reported that outreach committee will hold a meeting of the Commission's publication committee on October 21, 2015 at 12:45 p.m.

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Executive Session

None

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Alden, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel