

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
February 24, 2016
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 (via telephone)
Michael Bigger
Robert A. Cantone
Hamilton Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Nabi Fakroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Hermene Hartman
Steve Kim
Diane M. Viverito
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir (via telephone)

In Springfield

None

Absent

None

Staff

LaNade Bridges
N. Keith Chambers
Michael Evans
Dr. Ewa I. Ewa
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine M. Welninski

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Members of Public: None

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

I. Call to Order

On February 24, 2016 at 10:35 a.m., Chair Bombela-Tobias 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 physically present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Alden and Yadgir gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray, that they would not be able to be physically present for the February 24, 2016 meeting and requested to participate via telephone.
- 3) Motion to allow Commissioner Yadgir to participate via telephone made by Commissioner Cantone, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.
- 4) Motion to allow Commissioner Alden to participate via telephone made by Commissioner Cantone, seconded by Commissioner Chang. Motion carried 10-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

January 27, 2016

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2016 meeting as amended:

- 1) Item II, amend minutes to reflect that the Commission voted to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015 and not January 27, 2016.
- 2) Item IV subsection C, Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge report. Line one; include the word Judge before the name Evans.

Motion to approve the January 27, 2016 minutes as amended made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Viverito. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Chair's Report

Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias, Chair

Chair Bombela-Tobias thanked Commissioner Nabi for chairing the January 27, 2016 meeting.

IV. Staff Reports

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers reported that he attended the State of the State address in Springfield on January 27, 2016.

Mr. Chambers informed the Commissioners that the Commission's budget hearing before the Senate is scheduled for March 22, 2016.

Mr. Chambers reported that the Governor is going forward with the sale of the James R. Thompson Center ("JRTC"). The sale of the JRTC would require the relocation of the Commission. Mr. Chambers reported that the Commission might be relocated to the collar counties near Schaumburg, Illinois, or Des Plaines, Illinois. Mr. Chambers further reported that he has met with staff from Central Management Services ("CMS") regarding the Commission's space needs for the new location. Lastly, Mr. Chambers reported that the sale of the JRTC requires approval of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chambers reported that the Commission's Annual Report has been submitted and has been posted on the Commission's website. Paper copies of the Annual Report will be distributed to the Assembly members during the appropriation meetings.

Mr. Chambers gave a report of the yearly audit. Mr. Chambers reported that the Commission is in compliance, and there were no major findings.

Mr. Chambers reported that he, Chair Bombela-Tobias, and General Counsel Gray will be participating in the Illinois Department of Human Rights discrimination ("IDHR") study. Several Commissioners expressed an interest in participating in the study. Mr. Chambers advised the Commissioners to contact his office if they wished to participate and that he would forward their information to the IDHR.

Mr. Chambers reported that there is no pending legislation that could impact the Commission. The IDHR may introduce new legislation later this year. Mr. Chambers further reported that he is currently monitoring HB4474, which would amend the School Code and impact the access of transgender students to school locker room/changing room, overnight, and restroom facilities by sex.

Mr. Chambers reported that he and General Counsel Gray met with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce to discuss future legislation.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that the Commission's new Assistant General Counsel was hired and will start on February 29, 2016.

Dr. Ewa reported that the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission has approved the hiring of a new executive director. Dr. Ewa further reported that the Torture Commission's new staff attorney will start on February 29, 2016.

Dr. Ewa reminded the Commission that State Identification cards must be renewed. Anyone needing a new identification card or a renewal must contact his office in order to make an appointment with the Illinois State Police identification department.

Dr. Ewa gave a report on the Commission's procurement issues. Dr. Ewa reported that some vendors have walked away and several vendors will continue to supply the Commission. Dr. Ewa further reported that CMS has promised to look into the Commission's court reporter needs.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans could not attend the meeting and submitted a written report prior to the meeting.

D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray gave general reminders to the Commissioners concerning state identification cards, ethics training and timesheets.

Ms. Gray reported that Assistant General Counsels Evelio Mora and Byron Wardlaw attended the Midwest Public Law Career Conference at Northwestern Law School on February 6, 2016.

Ms. Gray reported that the Ms. Rhandi Anderson was hired as the new Assistant General Counsel. Ms. Anderson will begin work on February 29, 2016.

Ms. Gray reported that Michael Romero is interning at the Commission.

Ms. Gray distributed the General Counsel Section's caseload report.

Lastly, Ms. Gray distributed current Employment Law updates.

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V. New Business

The Commissioners were reminded that the Commission's outreach committee will meet on March 23, 2016, after the *en banc* meeting.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Executive Session

None

IX. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel