

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission  
May 25, 2016  
10:30 a.m.

---

James R. Thompson Center  
DHS - Murdock Room  
Suite 5-300  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, Illinois

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  
Michael Bigger  
Robert A. Cantone  
Hamilton Chang  
Terry Cosgrove  
Amy Kurzon  
Nabi Fakroddin  
Lauren Beth Gash  
Hermene Hartman  
Steve Kim  
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

None

Absent

Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**Human Rights Commission**

*En Banc* Minutes – May 25, 2016  
Page 2 of 5

**Staff**

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

**Members of the Public:** None

**NOTICE:**

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

**I. Call to Order**

On May 25, 2016 at 10:43 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 present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Yadgir gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that she would not be able to attend the April 27, 2016 meeting due to illness.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

April 27, 2016

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2016 meeting as amended. The Minutes were amended as follows: (1) In the Chair's report, third paragraph, replace General Assembly with Senate. (2) In Dr. Ewa's report, paragraph two, replace General Assembly with Senate. Motion to approve the April 27, 2016 minutes as amended made by Commissioner Cantone and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 12-0.

### **III. Chair's Report**

*Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias, Chair*

Chair Bombela-Tobias reported that she attended several outreach events. The Chair attended an outreach event in the Korean Community where she met former Commissioner David Chang.

The Chair further reported that in the month of May 2016, she attended the Illinois Latino Unity day event in Springfield, and the Illinois Association of Agencies and Community organizations for Migrant Advocacy (“IAACOMA”) annual training conference, also in Springfield.

### **IV. Staff Reports**

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

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

Mr. Chambers reported that SB2506 was dead in a committee.

Mr. Chambers reported on Executive Order 16-06 (“Order 16-06”). Order 16-06 addresses the potential restructuring of state administrative proceedings. Order 16-06 further referenced the Commission and some of its caseload numbers relative to requests for review. Order 16-06 would create a pilot program using a Central Panel Model of administrative hearings. Some state agencies would be invited to participate in the pilot program. The Commission was not one of the agencies that would be part of the pilot.

General Counsel Donyelle Gray explained Commission’s unique statutory structure, which differentiated it from the agencies likely to be included within the pilot.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that both the Commission and the Illinois Department of Human Rights have not had their budget hearings before the House.

Dr. Ewa reported that an upgrade for the Commission’s printer has been approved.

Dr. Ewa reported that business cards have been ordered and are on their way to the Commission.

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**Human Rights Commission**

*En Banc* Minutes – May 25, 2016  
Page 4 of 5

Dr. Ewa reported that the Commission will have to pay interest and penalties to vendors for late payments.

C. *Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Chief Judge Evans gave his report for the month of April 2016

D. *Donyelle Gray, General Counsel*

Ms. Gray issued a general reminder concerning timesheets. Timesheets should be forwarded to Christine M. Welninski as soon as possible. Ms. Gray further reminded the Commissioners that time sheets are subject to Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) requests.

Ms. Gray announced that the summer Coles Fellows will start on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Ms. Gray reported that the media continues to show interest in the *Mark Wathen vs. Timbercreek Bed and Breakfast* matter. Ms. Gray reminded the Commissioners that because it is a pending matter, they should not discuss the case amongst themselves or with others outside the Commission.

Ms. Gray also gave a brief report on SB2506. SB 2506 is considered dead for now.

Ms. Gray briefly spoke about President Obama’s executive directive regarding transgender students, Title IX, and Federal school funding. Ms. Gray also reported on HB4474, which was a bill proposed to require students to use school restrooms and locker room facilities corresponding to the students’ sex, those effectively making it a barrier for a trans-student to use facilities corresponding with his or her gender-identity. Ms. Gray reported that there has been no action on HB4474 for a few months, and that due to the President’s directive, such a law would likely risk running afoul of federal law.

Ms. Gray reported that reported that the Commission’s decision in *Charles Hughes vs. Anderson’s Café* will remain undisturbed due to the Appellant’s failure to prosecute the appeal.

Lastly, Ms. Gray reported on the Office of the General Counsel’s April caseload. She reported that in April alone, the OGC processed 10 FOIA requests, which considering the small size of the Commission, was a significant amount.

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**Human Rights Commission**

*En Banc* Minutes – May 25, 2016  
Page 5 of 5

**V. New Business**

Commissioner Cantone stated that he was seeking additional statistical information and analysis on public accommodation discrimination cases, and requested that Commission staff or another Commission member that if Commission staff or another member of the Commission had information they could provide him, or information on where to locate such information, to please let him know.

**VI. Old Business**

None

**VII. Public Comment**

None

**VIII. Executive Session**

None

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray  
General Counsel