

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
July 20, 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 (via telephone)
Terry Cosgrove
Amy Kurson
Nabi Fakroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Hermene Hartman
Steve Kim
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

None

Absent

Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

Staff

Rhandi Anderson
Michael Evans
Dr. Ewa I. Ewa
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Manpreet Teji (Coles Fellow)

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Sarah Joel Privert (Coles Fellow)
Byron M. Wardlaw
Christine M. Welninski

Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

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

I. Call to Order

On July 20, 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, Commissioner Chang gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that he would not be able to be physically present for the July 20, 2016 meeting and requested to participate via telephone.
- 3) Motion to allow Commissioner Chang to participate via made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 9-0.
- 4) Commissioners Kurson and Viverito arrived shortly after roll call and the approval of the June 22, 2016 minutes.

II. Consideration of Minutes

June 22, 2016

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2016 as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the June 22, 2016 minutes as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Gash and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.

III. Chair's Report

Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias, Chair

Chair Bombela-Tobias reported that the former Commission Chair Abner J. Mikva had passed away. The Commission decided to present Mr. Mikva's family with a proclamation for his service with the Commission.

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Chair Bombela-Tobias announced that Rocco Clapps had resigned as Executive Director of the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

Chair Bombela-Tobias reported that the General Assembly has passed a stop-gap budget and that Dr. Ewa would have more details in his report.

Chair Bombela-Tobias reported that she attended the Summer Institute on Social Justice.

Chair Bombela-Tobias lastly reported the passing of Gertrude Jordan who held several executive positions within state government.

IV. Staff Reports

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers was attending a meeting with the Governor's office and was unable to attend the Commission's *en banc* meeting.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that a stop-gap budget has been passed. The Commission will receive \$150,000 in appropriations until December 31, 2016. However, this amount will not be adequate due to the Commission owing more than this amount.

Dr. Ewa reported that all vouchers will be submitted. Vendors will be paid first for monies owed. This would include money owed to court reporters. Lastly, money owed to Central Management Services will be paid at a later time.

Dr. Ewa reported that there will not be any further payments to the pension fund or health insurance.

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

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

D. *Donyelle Gray, General Counsel*

Ms. Gray distributed the Commission 2017 meeting calendar draft. Ms. Gray requested that the Commissioners review the calendar and provide feedback regarding any

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proposed amendments. Ms. Gray suggested that a vote to approve the 2017 calendar may be made on the Commission August meeting. Commissioner Cantone asked to move the date for the May Panel B meeting up one week from the 24th, to the 17th. It was agreed all meetings scheduled for that date would be moved up.

Ms. Gray distributed employment updates.

Ms. Gray distributed the General Counsel Section's caseload report for the month of June 2016.

Ms. Gray thanked the summer Cole's Fellows for their work and Chair Bombela-Tobias presented the Fellows with certificates of appreciation, signed by the Governor.

Ms. Gray gave a general reminder that all media inquiries should be referred to the Commission's public info officer Mike Theodore.

Ms. Gray also reminded the Commissioners about ethical rules regarding political activity.

V. New Business

Chair Bombela-Tobias raised the subject of training for the Commissioners. Chair Bombela-Tobias informed the Commission to submit any training requests to Commission staff.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Executive Session

None

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel