

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission  
November 19, 2014  
10:00 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  
Nabi Fakhroddin  
Lauren Beth Gash (via telephone)  
Rozanne Ronen  
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir  
Diane M. Viverito  
David J. Walsh

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic  
Brad Cole  
David J. Walsh

Absent

None

**Staff**

Dr. Ewa Ewa  
Michael Evans  
Reva Bauch  
Donyelle L. Gray  
Evelio Mora

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Christine M. Welninski  
Byron Wardlaw

**Members of Public:** None

**NOTICE:**

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

**I. Call to Order**

On November 19, 2014 at 10:04 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.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Gash gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray, that she would not be physically present for the meeting and requested to participate via telephone.
- 3) Motion to allow Commissioner Gash to participate via telephone made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 12-0.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

October 22, 2014

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2014 as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the October 22, 2014 minutes as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Dee. Motion carried 13-0.

**III. Chairman's Report**

*Martin R. Castro, Chairman*

Chairman Castro reported that the terms of seven HRC Commissioners expire in January 2015.

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Chairman Castro requested that if a member of the Governor-elect's staff contacts any HRC Commissioner, the Commissioner should notify the Chairman and the Executive Director.

**IV. Staff Reports**

*A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers was not able to attend the November 19, 2015 meeting because he was attending the Illinois General Assembly's veto session in Springfield.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that he will be meeting with the Governor's budget director and the Governor-elect's transition team on Friday November 21, 2014.

Dr. Ewa reported that he is working on two budgets. The two budgets are a FY16 maintenance budget and an unofficial budget with a 1% increase to accommodate non-union staff.

Dr. Ewa reported that a new staff person has been hired for the Springfield office. The new staff person will start on December 1, 2014.

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

Chief Administrative Law Evans gave the report for the month of October 2014.

*D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel*

Ms. Gray reported that the terms of seven Commissioners were due to expire in January 2015. Ms. Gray further reported that these Commissioners will be able to serve and perform all duties of an HRC Commissioner for 60 calendar days thereafter, after which time, unless the Commissioner is reappointed, his or her position will cease.

Ms. Gray gave a brief overview of the Illinois Human Rights Act, concerning political party affiliation for the appointment of HRC Commissioners, noting that no more than 7 Commissioners may be from the same political party.

Ms. Gray reported that the Illinois Appellate Court has upheld a Commission's judgment in favor of the Complainant In the Matter of: Annie Johnson v. The Illinois Department of Human Services. It was the second Commission judgment in about a 6-month period that was in the mid-six figures, and which was upheld by the Appellate Court.

Ms. Gray distributed employment law updates.

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**V. New Business**

The Commissioners discussed the Commission's Holiday Party for the Commission staff. The Holiday Party will be held on December 17, 2014 after the Commission's *en banc* meeting.

**VI. Old Business**

Chairman Castro gave an update of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment event. Chairman Castro reported that he will contact the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum regarding the possibility of holding a small reception prior to the expiration of the terms of the seven HRC Commissioners.

**VII. Public Comment**

None

**VIII. Executive Session**

None

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Dee. Motion carried 13-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray  
General Counsel