

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
January 28, 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

Chairman Martin R. Castro (via telephone)
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Merri Dee
Nabi Fakhroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Rozanne Ronen
Diane M. Viverito
David J. Walsh
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

none

Public

Daniel Cohen

Staff

LaNade Bridges
N. Keith Chambers

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Dr. Ewa Ewa
Michael Evans
Reva Bauch
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Michael Robinson
Christine M. Welninski
Byron Wardlaw

Members of Public:

NOTICE:

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

I. Call to Order

On January 28, 2015 at 10:31 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. Prior to the meeting, Chairman Castro gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that he would not be physically present for the meeting and requested to participate via telephone. A motion to allow Chairman Castro to participate via telephone was made by Commissioner Cosgrove and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.
- 2) Commissioner Ronen arrived after roll call.

II. Consideration of Minutes

December 17, 2014

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the December 17, 2014 minutes as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro reported that there is no news regarding the re-appointment of HRC Commissioners. Chairman Castro reminded the Commission that Commissioner will continue serving for 60 days after the expiration of their terms.

IV. Staff Reports

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers reported that he is working with the new administration with the transition.

Mr. Chambers reported that Governor Rauner has issued several executive orders and that the Commission is full compliance with each order.

Mr. Chambers reported that the Commission's website and letter head have been change to reflect the Governor Rauner's name.

Mr. Chambers reported that the Annual Report is complete and has been submitted.

Mr. Chambers reported that there is no new legislation pending in the Illinois General Assembly that would impact the HRC.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that the Governor's Office has issued Executive Order 1508. The Executive Order instructs state agencies to create budget scenarios with budget cuts for FY15. The Governor's Budget Office also instructed agencies on the reduction of expenditures and provide a reserve for FY15.

Dr. Ewa further reported presently the HRC has a \$105,000.000 deficit. As a result, the HRC will not have a reserve as request by the budget office. However, Dr. Ewa has informed the Budget Office that the HRC has suspended all expenditures in order to operate in a budget deficit and to prevent any possible layoff of HRC staff.

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

Chief Administrative Law Evans gave the report for the month of December 2014. Judge Evans stated that the number of cases coming in and out of the Administrative Law Section has stabilized for the month of December 2014.

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D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray reported that the terms of seven Commissioners have expired. Ms. Gray further reported that there is no word from the Governor's General Counsel as to re-appointments.

Ms. Gray reported that Commissioner Cole's appointment was pulled back by Governor Rauner since Commissioner's Cole appointment was never sent to the Senate for confirmation. Ms. Gray is still waiting for word from the Governor's office on Commissioner Cole's re-appointment.

Ms. Gray gave a brief report the Illinois Revolving Door policy as it applies to the HRC Commissioners. Ms. Gray distributed handouts on this policy.

Ms. Gray gave general reminders concerning annual ethics training, and Statement of Economic Interest.

Ms. Gray briefly reported on current outreach performed by the General Counsel staff.

Ms. Gray briefly reported on a recent Illinois Appellate Decision upholding a Commission's Decision.

Ms. Gray distributed material in regards to the Pregnancy Rights amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act.

V. New Business

Daniel Cohen gave a presentation on the documentary "Mirrors of Privilege".

VI. Old Business

None

VII. Public Comment

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., the meeting was open for public comment

None

VIII. Executive Session

Executive Session

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the public meeting at 11:33 a.m. in order to discuss internal personnel

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matter. Motion made by Chairman Castro, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

At 11:45 a.m., the open meeting resumed.

The Commission voted to approve the executive session minutes of September 24, 2014 as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the executive session minutes of September 24, 2014 as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Walsh. Motion carried 12-0

The Commission voted to keep the approved executive session minutes of September 24, 2014 confidential. Motion to keep the executive session minutes of September 24, 2014 confidential made by Commissioner Cosgrove and seconded by Commissioner Dee. Motion carried 12-0

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Cosgrove, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel