

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission  
March 21, 2012  
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Pollution Control Board  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 512  
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

Robert A. Cantone  
Terry Cosgrove  
Marylee V. Freeman (Via telephone)  
Nabi Fakroddin  
Spencer Leak, Sr.  
Munir Muhammad  
Rozanne Ronen  
David J. Walsh  
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir (Via telephone)  
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

**Staff**

Michael J. Evans  
Donyelle L. Gray  
Evelio Mora  
Christine Welninski  
LaNade Bridges

**Members of Public:**

None

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

*En Banc* Minutes – March 21, 2012  
Page 2 of 4

**NOTICE:**

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

**I. Call to Order**

On March 21, 2012, at 10:05 a.m., Vice-Chairman Rozanne Ronen 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, Chairman Castro gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the Acting General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle L. Gray, that he would be unable to attend today's meeting.
- 3) Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Yadgir and Freeman gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the Acting General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle L. Gray, that they would be unable to be physically present at today's meeting.
- 4) Prior to the meeting Commissioners Yadgir and Freeman requested to participate via telephone. The Commission voted to allow Commissioners Yadgir and Freeman to participate in the meeting via telephone. Motion made by Commissioner Muhammad and seconded by Commissioner Viverito. Motion carried 10-0.
- 5) Commissioner Freeman joined the meeting after consideration of the minutes.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

February 22, 2012

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2012, as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Muhammad and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.

**III. Staff Reports**

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers thanked the HRC staff for its work in preparation for the FY13 budget hearings before the Illinois General Assembly.

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

*En Banc* Minutes – March 21, 2012  
Page 3 of 4

Mr. Chambers reported the General Assembly had cut the HRC's budget by \$85,000.00. This amount was diverted to the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission. As a result, the HRC will struggle to fill any existing job vacancies.

The HRC has asked the General Assembly to separate the HRC and the Torture Commission budgets.

Mr. Chambers announced that he and Chairman Castro attended the Illinois Municipal Human Relations Department's annual conference planning meeting on February 29, 2012.

Mr. Chambers announced that the HRC endorsed HB 5290. This Bill was sponsored by State Representative Kelly Cassidy. The Bill would amend the Illinois School Violence Act so as to develop a template for a statewide model for bullying prevention policy. Mr. Chambers distributed the HRC press release endorsing the Bill.

Mr. Chambers recognized Chief Administrative Law Judge Michael Evans for his participation in The Chicago Bar Association's seminar on Attorney Fee Petitions.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that the HRC gave an overall good budget presentation before the General Assembly. However, no additional monies are forthcoming to fill existing vacancies in either the Office of the General Counsel or the Administrative Law Section. Dr. Ewa also reported that he had to remove the \$100,000.00 Fair Housing funds from the HRC's budget.

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

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section's statistics for the month of February 2012, in writing.

*D. Donyelle L. Gray, Acting General Counsel*

Ms. Gray reminded the Commissioners that Statements of Economic Interest ("SEIs") must be filed with the Secretary of State by May 1, 2012. Ms. Gray further reminded the Commissioners that she must review the statements before they are filed, and that Commissioners should provide her with a copy of their completed SEIs for review prior to filing the originals with the Secretary of State.

Ms. Gray reminded the Commissioners to complete their off-line 2012 Annual Ethics Training and return Certificates of Completion to the OGC as soon as possible.

Ms. Gray reviewed the Panel meeting schedule changes with the Commission. The May 2012 Panel A and En Banc Meetings will take place on May 30, 2012, at 9:00 A.M. and

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

*En Banc* Minutes – March 21, 2012  
Page 4 of 4

10:00 A.M., respectively. Panel D will now meet at 11:15 A.M. Previous meeting dates remain as scheduled.

Ms. Gray also announced that due to a Commissioner vacancy, a volunteer for Panel B will be needed for the October 10, 2012, Panel B meeting.

Finally, Ms. Gray announced that two students will be joining the Commission this Summer as Coles Fellows.

**V. Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business.

**VI. New Business**

There was no New Business.

**VII. Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Muhammad, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray  
Acting General Counsel