

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
October 23, 2013
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
Merri Dee
Nabi Fakroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Rozanne Ronen
David J. Walsh
Diane M. Viverito (via telephone)
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic
Terry Cosgrove

Absent

none

Staff

Reva Bauch
LaNade Bridges
N. Keith Chambers
Dr. Ewa Ewa
Mike Evans
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora

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Christine M. Welninski
Jessica Katlin (Coles Fellow)

Members of Public: none

NOTICE:

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

I. Call to Order

On October 23, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. 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 Viverito gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that she would be unable to be physically present at the meeting.
- 3) Commissioner Viverito requested to participate via telephone. A motion to allow Commissioner Viverito to participate via telephone was made by Chairman Castro and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 11-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

September 25, 2013

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2013 made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Gash. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro reported that he attended a Governor's cabinet meeting in which he spoke with the Governor's Chief of Staff Ryan Croke about the Commission. Director Chambers and Dr. Ewa provided the Chairman with bullet points of the Commission's function and needs. The Chairman further discussed with Mr. Croke the supplemental budget and the need for three key staff positions that need to be filled. In order to fill these staff positions the Commission would need a supplemental budget of \$200,000, which would be used for salaries and benefits.

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The Chairman also spoke with Ben Winick from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget about the supplemental budget and the need to fill the three key staff positions.

Chairman Castro announced that he will be a guest speaker along with Governor Quinn at the Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees on October 25, 2013.

Chairman Castro announced that he will not be able to attend the Commission's next en banc meeting. Chairman Castro will be participating in a debate at Oxford University in England on the topic of affirmative action in his capacity as Chairperson of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Commissioner and Vice-Chair Ronen will preside over the November en banc meeting.

Chairman Castro announced there is a Bill pending in the Illinois General Assembly that will eliminate the salaries of state board members and commissioners. The Chairman stated that the Bill will not likely pass.

IV. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Mr. Chambers reported that work for the FY15 budget is under way. The first priority for the FY15 budget is that it not be reduced. The second priority will be filling vacant staff positions.

Mr. Chambers reported that preparations are underway to begin the drafting and production of the HRC's Annual Report.

Mr. Chambers reported on the reduction of cases in the Commission's Administrative Law Section ("ALS"). Mr. Chambers reported that the process of obtaining data from the Office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court, Tim Evans, is underway. The data will be used by the Commission to better understand the downward spike in filings with the Commission in the ALS.

Mr. Chambers reported that the audit is still in progress and there is no news of findings from the audit.

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

Dr. Ewa reported that he is proceeding very cautiously with Commission expenditures.

Dr. Ewa reported that work for the FY15 budget is under way and he will be presenting a flat budget because of the size of the Commission; the budget will include union increases.

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C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Evans gave the report for the ALS for the month of September 2013. Judge Evans further reported that the intake numbers continue to drop. At this time, the reason for this decline is not apparent.

D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray announced that Commission staff will attend the “Meet the Public Service Organizations Reception” at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law on October 29, 2013.

Mr. Gray distributed a brochure produced by the Executive Ethics Commission regarding political activity. Ms. Gray advised the Commission that no State employees or appointees may engage in any political activity on State property, using State property or resources, on State time.

Ms. Gray made general reminders and distributed labor law updates.

Ms. Gray announced that Commissioner Dee will be having a street named in her honor on October 30th, which also happens to be Commissioner Dee’s birthday.

V. New Business

None

VI. Petition for Rehearing En Banc

A. Rosetta Davis v. Elmbrook Healthcare & Rehabilitation Centre LLC
(Supplemental Remand Order)

Charge No.: 2005CF1490

ALS No.: 06-241

The Commission voted to deny the Petition. Motion made by Chairman Castro, seconded by Commissioner Ronen. Motion carried 12-0.

B. Rosetta Davis v. Elmbrook Healthcare & Rehabilitation Centre LLC
(Remand Order)

Charge No.: 2005CF1490

ALS No.: 06-241

The Commission voted to strike the Petition for mootness. Motion made by Chairman Castro, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

C. Christopher Cross v. Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County

Charge No.: 2005CF0396

ALS No.: 06-304

The Commission voted to deny the Petition. Motion made by Commissioner Cantone, seconded by Commissioner Gash. Motion carried 12-0.

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VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. Public Comment

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., the meeting was open for public comment. No comments were received.

IX. Executive Session

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the public meeting at 10:39 a.m.. Motion made by Chairman Castro, seconded by Commissioner Dee. Motion carried 12-0.

At 10:50 a.m., the open meeting resumed.

X. Items Out of Executive Session

The Commission approved the hire Byron M. Wardlaw for the position of Assistant General Counsel. Motion made by Chairman Castro, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 12-0.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Ronen. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel