

**STATE OF ILLINOIS TORTURE INQUIRY
AND RELIEF COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission

April 3, 2012

3:00 p.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Conference Room 9 – 031
100 W. Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Chairman Cheryl Starks
Leonard Cavise
Marcie Thorp (Alternate)
Neil Toppel
Rob Warden

Absent Commissioners

Doris Green (Alternate)
Hipolito Roldan

Staff

David C. Thomas, Executive Director
Rosa Martinez, Private Secretary

Attendees

Human Rights Commission

Ewa Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer
Donyelle Gray, Acting General Counsel
Evelio Mora, Assistant General Counsel

Members of the Public:

Suzanne Isaacson

NOTICE:

Open and Closed Meetings of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On April 3, 2012, at 3:18 p.m., Chair Cheryl Starks called to order a meeting of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission (“TIRC”).

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.*, it was determined that a quorum of the public body was present at the meeting without the physical presence of Commissioners Roldan and Green. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Roldan and Green did not give notice (as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the Executive Director David Thomas that they would be unable to attend the April 3, 2012 meeting.

II. Consideration of the Minutes

October 31, 2011

The TIRC voted to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2011, meeting as submitted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Toppel and seconded by Commissioner Warden. Motion carried 5-0. Chairman Starks announced the minutes of the public portion of the meeting will be published on the website.

III. Executive Session

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (5ILCS 120/2(c) (1)), the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the meeting at 3:20 p.m. in order to discuss investigative matters. Motion made by Commissioner Toppel, seconded by Commissioner Warden. Motion carried 5-0.

At 4:19 p.m. the open meeting resumed.

Chairman Starks states the Commission discussed investigative matters and recommendations that are to remain confidential, as appropriate pursuant to the statute.

IV. Short Term Goals

Funding

Executive Director David Thomas states that the TIRC has been included in the Governor’s Appropriations budget for FY 2013. The funds requested for FY 2013 (FY 2013 runs from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013) are \$235,000. The funds will be sufficient to continue the TIRC operations and hire the candidate to fill the position of Staff Attorney. Executive Director David Thomas reports that a group called Black People Against Police Torture has established an online petition asking for support of the funding request for the TIRC.

Vacancies

Executive Director David Thomas reports that on March 23, 2012, the Office of Executive Appointments mailed out the required paperwork needed to reappoint Commissioners Toppel and Cavise to the Commission. Candidates who have registered online to become appointed as Commissioners have also received the appropriate paperwork. The candidates are Bruce Mosbacher, a former Public Defender; Joe Kennelly, a Criminal Defense Attorney; Craig Futterman, a Law Professor; and Margaret Soffin. The legal staff from the Office of Executive Appointments will reach out to each candidate to complete the vetting process. Chairman Starks reports that former Judge Amanda Toney has expressed interest in filling the Alternate Former Judge vacancy. Commissioner Starks suggested Executive Director David Thomas contact Judge Amanda Toney and provide her with the necessary information to apply for the vacancy.

Special Meeting

Commissioners discussed whether a special meeting should be held before the June 5, 2012 meeting to discuss additional recommendations. Commissioners agreed that a special meeting was not necessary and will continue with the regularly scheduled meeting of June 5, 2012.

V. Long Term Goals

Chairman Starks states that in the future Executive Sessions will be held at the end of the Open Meeting in order not to inconvenience the persons from the public who are attending the open portion of the meeting.

Executive Director David Thomas states that it would be appropriate for the TIRC to recognize the substantial *pro bono* work that has been provided by SNR Denton, Winston & Strawn, McDermott Will & Emery, Kirkland and Ellis, and Mayer Brown. Commissioners suggested that Executive Director Thomas draft a letter expressing the Commission's appreciation.

VI. TIRC Calendar of Meetings

The Calendar of Meetings for the TIRC, to be held in room 09-031 of the Thompson Center, for the remainder of 2012 is:

- June 5, 2012 at 3:00 p. m.
- August 7, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
- October 2, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
- December 4, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Starks, Chair
Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission