

# MINUTES

**CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR)  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
July 12, 2018**

## **Attendance**

### Commissioners Present:

Mona Noriega, *Chair*  
Joanna Borowiec  
Ryan Dunigan  
Rochelle Grimbau

Emanuel Johnson, II  
Stephanie Kanter  
Leisa Mosley  
David Mussatt

Nabeela Rasheed  
Julio Rodriguez  
Mark Rodriguez

### Staff Present:

Iris Archilla  
Kenneth Gunn

Matthew Lango  
JoAnn Newsome

Kelly Saulsberry  
Karen Wallace

## **Call to Order**

Mona Noriega called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and Iris Archilla recorded the minutes. A quorum of board of commissioners was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business. Mona allowed everyone to introduce themselves to our newest board member, Emanuel Johnson, II, as well as our interns, Thalia Taylor and Isabelle Sohn.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mona Noriega presented to the board the minutes of the December 2017 board meeting for approval, whereupon motion was duly made by Julio Rodriguez to adopt as written, seconded by Leisa Mosley and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

A motion to move to Executive Session was duly made by Julio Rodriguez, seconded by Mark Rodriguez and unanimously adopted.

## **Adjudication Review Committee Report**

*Hawkins v Village Green Holdings Co., LLC, CCHR No 14-H-35*

David Mussatt provided a brief summary of this source of income discrimination case. He stated the Hearing Officer recommended a finding of no liability based on the lack of credibility of the Complainant.

The Adjudication Review Panel accepted the hearing officer's recommendation. David Mussatt made a motion to accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation; it was seconded by Joanna Borowiec and unanimously adopted.

A motion to end the Executive Session was duly made by Stephanie Kanter, seconded by Julio Rodriguez and unanimously adopted.

## **Adjudication Report**

Matthew Lango discussed the number of complaints we received this year versus last year. He stated the overall number of complaints we received this year have increased when compared to last year's numbers. We are at a total of 124 complaints received up to date. Employment complaints are slightly down. Housing complaints are significantly higher. And, our public accommodation complaint numbers are similar to those of last year. We have been making more findings of substantial evidence in our cases than in previous years. But,

significantly more of those cases are settling prior to the hearing stage. The parties are realizing that resolution to their cases might make more sense than moving forward to a Hearing where they are putting their fate in the hands of a Hearing Officer followed by the Board in terms of what the outcome of the case might be.

Mona added that we spent a lot of time trying to update our disability regulations, but we have not received as many complaints as we thought we would have. One of the things we have been doing over the last few years is canvassing business routes to educate businesses in several areas across the city. Stephanie Kanter raised a concern in regards to accessible entrances with new construction and the breakdown of communication between the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and Department of Buildings. Mona asked that she identify locations that have the same problem as evidence of the gap so we may then follow up on this issue.

### **Discuss Hiring Process**

Kenneth Gunn stated we currently have three job openings; Human Relations Investigator II (HRI II), Administrative Services Officer II (ASO II), and Human Relations Specialist II (HRS II). We received approval to fill three vacancies and are in the process of moving on all of them. The first step is posting the ad. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) then screens the applicants and provides us with a list of candidates to interview. We meet with DHR to create interview questions, schedule the interviews and hopefully get someone onboard relatively soon. The HRI II interviews are underway. The ASO II position's interviews will begin in two weeks. The HRS II position will be posted soon. Ideally, the goal is to get these positions filled as soon as possible. Although we cannot make it a requirement for the HRI II and HRS II positions, we are looking for people who can speak additional languages outside of English and Spanish as we do not have any language capacity here other than those two languages.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Kenneth Gunn distributed the CCHR's 2016 Annual Report. He mentioned that our interns, with the help of Iris Archilla, assisted in putting together the report. We are also circulating a newsletter on a quarterly basis via email. The next one is due in October. Mona asked for any suggestions on topics to include in our newsletter.

Mona Noriega stated that we will be participating in a couple of outreach events; AccessChicago and the Disability Pride Parade. We will also have a brown bag discussion on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with Ben Austen, Author of "High-Risers: Cabrini Green and the Fate of American Public Housing". Our next museum tour will be held this Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at the DuSable Museum.

Finally, Mona mentioned that as of the end of June, Alderman Lopez will be our new Vice-Chair for the City Council's Committee on Human Relations.

### **Next Meeting**

August 9, 2018, at 3:30 p.m., CCHR Boardroom

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion to adjourn was duly made by Mark Rodriguez, seconded by Julio Rodriguez and unanimously adopted at 4:30 p.m.