

MINUTES

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING April 8, 2021

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Nancy Andrade
Joanna Borowiec
Naderh Elrabadi
Kim Fountain

Rochelle Grimbau
Reyahd Kazmi
Ray Koenig, III
Leisa Mosley

Esther Nieves
Michelle Shang
Butch Trusty

Staff Present:

Aracelis Baez
Kenneth Gunn
JoAnn Newsome

Cheryl Reid
Jennifer Scott
Gloria Vu

Norman White

Call to Order

Commissioner Nancy Andrade called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. and Gloria Vu recorded the minutes. A quorum of board of commissioners was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business. Commissioner Andrade had CCHR's Inter-Group Relations division, and the Board of Commissioners introduce themselves to get to know one another.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Andrade presented the minutes of the March 2021 Board meeting to the Board for approval, where upon motion was duly made by Leisa Mosley to adopt as written, seconded by Rochelle Grimbau and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Andrade announced that the CCHR successfully began one of the first of many future CCHR webinars. The April 7, 2021 Fair Housing webinar that was hosted in English had about 50 attendees. The CCHR will have the same webinar in Spanish the following week on April 14th. The webinar series will be recorded and housed on the CCHR website for public access.

Regarding in person hearings held at the Commission, Commissioner Andrade reported that she discussed options with First Deputy Commissioner Kenneth Gunn, Deputy Commissioner JoAnn Newsome, and Director of Human Rights Compliance-Employment Karen Wallace to resume hearings in the summer. With plans in place, microphones and video equipment were requested and placed in the Board Room to have all parties safely socially distanced. A request was also made to have an appropriate city agency to review the CCHR's capacity limits as having hearings is now a priority since hearings were delayed because of the pandemic. Updates are to follow.

Board member, Butch Trusty who represents the LGBTQ+ Advisory Council provided an update and stated that their focus was to prioritize public health and the "Violence Reduction Plan" that was mentioned at the last CCHR board meeting. The Council has two subgroups that are working on ways to identify additional reduction strategies especially around elevating and centering the violence against trans-women of color, with a goal to have a set of recommendations in place sometime in the fall.

Butch has also mentioned that he has been working on a joint webinar with Commissioner Andrade to add to the CCHR's webinar series. Planning for this webinar will be mentioned at the next LGBTQ+ Advisory Council

meeting on Tuesday, April 13th at 6:00pm. The Council will also hear from City officials on how their work overlaps with meeting the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. Updates are to follow.

Board member, Esther Nieves who represents the Advisory Council on Equity also provided an update and mentioned that the Council is working on developing an equity statement of principles for the City of Chicago to encourage and affirm that Chicago is a place of equity. Candace Moore is leading the drafting and consultation processes with the intention of bringing it to the other councils for additional input to ensure the statement is in line with the vision of the City. Updates are to follow.

Board Member, Kim Fountain who represents the Advisory Council on Women also provided an update and stated that there are three committees under the Women's Advisory Council: Health, Economic Security, and Gender Based Violence.

The Health Committee is looking to create an equitable health assessment tool that will identify women involved in health-related work. The assessment will also seek to determine if women were involved in the policy decisions of health systems and programs. The committee is working to determine how the answers can be shared with the public, among other things. Updates are to follow.

The Economic Security Committee just started, and it is working on how to define economic power, equity, empowerment, justice, and security to determine how to best serve women in the community. There are other empowerment initiatives currently underway; updates are to follow.

The Gender Based Violence Committee, which Kim is involved in, has been working with Darci Flynn of the Mayor's Office to have Commissioner Andrade speak at the Council's public meeting for Women's History Month. The broad focus was mainly about what is happening in the Asian communities, but specifically the work currently being done around misogynistic racism experienced by Asian women, and the historical background that led to this form of violence and targeting. Updates are to follow.

Old Business

Deputy Commissioner, JoAnn Newsome provided updates regarding the CLE Program scheduled for the spring or early summer. She stated that she will have further discussions with Karen Wallace and Ray Koenig, III to determine the criteria required for participants to earn CLE credit. This program will target attorneys who may potentially represent those in need of legal representation at the Commission. Updates are to follow.

New Business

The Commission is forming an Ad-Hoc Committee on the topic of anti-Asian hate crimes. Commissioner Andrade and Candace Moore, Chief Equity Officer for the Mayor's Office have been working closely to develop a committee of 12-15 members. It was agreed that the committee should be chaired by a member of the Commission, so Nancy has asked Michelle Shang to take on this responsibility, who has accepted. The committee will be charged with coming up with a series of recommendations for the Mayor's Office on how to address hate against the Asian/Pacific Islander community. Updates are to follow.

Kim Fountain mentioned that since most of the anti-Asian hate crimes have been against Asian elders, she suggested having someone who works with the Asian senior communities take part on the committee. She also suggested having someone on the committee who has expertise with violence against Asian women considering the recent mass killing in Georgia. She noted that each Asian community experiences violence differently and has different vulnerabilities, so it is important that the Ad-Hoc Committee have members who understand these differences.

Next Meeting

May 13, 2021 at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion to adjourn was duly made by Ray Koenig, III and was seconded by Joanna Borowiec and was unanimously adopted at 4:34 p.m.