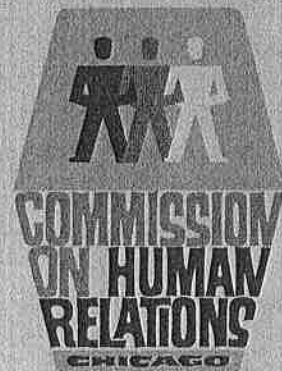


Highlights of 1961

ANNUAL REPORT



COMMISSION

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CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD J. DALEY, MAYOR



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

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CHICAGO 6, ILLINOIS

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April 30, 1962

Mayor Richard J. Daley
and Members of the City Council
City of Chicago
City Hall
Chicago 2, Illinois

Gentlemen:

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations is pleased to submit to you and to the people of Chicago this report of its work for the year 1961.

We are grateful to the many private citizens who have assisted the Commission program, particularly those who served on our eleven advisory committees. We need and seek the support of all Chicagoans to eliminate racial and religious discrimination and prejudice. We hope 1962 will bring our city still closer to that goal.

With the continued support of the Mayor and the City Council we will renew and strengthen our efforts to further equal rights under the law for all men, in all places and at all times.

Respectfully submitted,

Ely M. Aaron
Ely M. Aaron
Chairman

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Progress in the field of human relations often is difficult to measure. But judged by even the most exacting standards, Chicago made significant strides forward during 1961. Carrying on this work officially for the City of Chicago is the Commission on Human Relations.

The Commission's 15 commissioners, 36 staff workers, and 450 citizen-volunteers who serve on advisory committees work continuously to safeguard individuals and groups from unfair treatment for reasons of race, religion, or place of birth. Since it was organized in 1943, the Commission has worked with ever-increasing success in making the ideal of the American Creed--freedom and equality of opportunity--a reality for all Chicagoans.

Many challenges still must be met by the Commission as it moves closer to its goal of fair and equal treatment for all the people of Chicago. However, the Commission firmly believes that Chicago today stands on the threshold of a new era in human relations.

"More and more people are accepting the basis of equality of treatment," Ely M. Aaron, Commission chairman, said at the Commission's December annual awards luncheon.

"The community as a whole is more willing . . . to take constructive steps to protect everyone's rights regardless of race, religion, or national origin," Edward Marciniak, executive director, told the same audience.

A review of human relations in Chicago for 1961 shows ample evidence to support these statements.

PROGRESS IN EMPLOYMENT

More concrete examples of progress toward fair employment practices occurred in 1961 than at any time in the past decade. Almost daily, the Commission sees the impact of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity upon local employment practices. Although the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Commission is just beginning its operations, it too has had an effect on the job policies of many companies.

Here is a typical example of how the Commission on Human Relations helped to improve job opportunities for minority group persons.

A Negro carpenter was refused employment by a large building contractor at a public housing project under construction, while other carpenters were being hired. After action by CCHR, 22 Negro carpenters were on the job the next day.

Under city ordinance, those who do business with the city cannot refuse to hire a qualified person solely on the grounds of race, religion, or national origin. The Commission sees that this anti-discrimination clause is strictly observed by maintaining close contact with several hundred firms holding city contracts. During 1961 the Commission conducted 261 interviews on job sites and made thorough reviews of the employment records of 44 contractors who held city contracts.

In other employment action initiated by the Commission, a major steel firm promoted the first Negro to a supervisory position; a Negro woman who was refused employment by an electrical equipment manufacturer was hired the day after the Commission brought this matter to the attention of the company's personnel manager; Negroes were hired for the first time as truck drivers for an armored car services firm, as ushers at public events and as clerical and business machine operators for insurance firms; and Negroes were accepted as members of a building trade union previously closed to them. The Commission also was instrumental in getting a fair employment policy accepted by a large public carrier and by a hospital for its medical and technical staff personnel.

PROGRESS IN CIVIL RIGHTS

One of the most urgent areas in which the Commission works is that of civil rights. Hundreds of complaints alleging violations of civil rights were handled by the Commission staff during 1961. A breakdown of these complaints shows that they were primarily in the categories of public accommodations, threats, assaults, property damage, unlawful assemblies, and malicious mischief.

The Commission was alert to the activities of groups which try to promote religious bigotry and worked diligently in co-operation with the police department to prevent desecration of synagogues. Because of police alertness, one conviction was made in the two major instances of temple desecration.

Although 1961 saw an increase over the previous year in the number of civil rights complaints received by the Commission, this does not necessarily indicate an increase in racial tensions in the city. The Commission believes that the increase in complaints can be attributed to a number of factors, among which are: greater public awareness of the work of the Commission, increased confidence in the police department, and a nation-wide spirit of militance among Negroes.

In order to better prepare police officers to handle human relations problems, the Commission prepared and presented a course in civil rights law to 960 police recruits during their training sessions. The Commission also participated in a special training seminar in human relations for 97 police command personnel.

To cope with tensions that had developed in the Rainbow Beach and West Side areas, the Commission co-operated with private organizations, clergymen, and the police department in developing coordinated plans for meeting such situations. A series of meetings between these groups resulted in improved methods for handling intergroup tensions and improved human relations in the two communities.

Recognizing that good communications are necessary to maintain a stable neighborhood once tension has been reduced, the Commission helped organize a

series of meetings between community leaders and police officials in the Lawndale and Hudson avenue districts.

In addition to its efforts to combat racial tension, the Commission's civil rights program concerns itself with seeing that all citizens are served equally and impartially in places of public accommodation.

For example, after receiving a complaint that a Loop beauty salon had refused to serve a Negro customer, the Commission conducted a survey of downtown beauty shops and schools of cosmetology and held discussions with the state examiner of beauty shops. This investigation showed that---contrary to the position of the beauty shop involved in the complaint---all state-licensed beauty operators must be able to work on all hair textures and that no special equipment is needed for these varying hair textures. Not only is this beauty shop now serving all customers regardless of race, but the Commission survey was instrumental in obtaining a ruling from the Illinois Department of Registration and Education that all beauty shops must serve everyone.

In another public accommodations complaint case, the City of Chicago filed its first suit charging racial discrimination under Chapter 199a of the Municipal Code against a southwest side restaurant. The filing of this suit was unusual in that most public accommodations complaints are settled satisfactorily at informal conferences.

PROGRESS IN AIDING NEWCOMERS

Newcomers to the city received additional Commission help when a third neighborhood center of the Mayor's Committee on New Residents was opened on the North Side at 1220 West Wilson Avenue supplementing the South Side and West Side neighborhood information centers. These centers are strategically located in communities that traditionally receive the bulk of the city's new residents.

Bilingual staff personnel in these offices help newcomers adjust to urban life, assist them in getting jobs and medical care, and provide practical advice on the problems faced by persons unfamiliar with urban life. Some 7,947 persons were served by the three centers during 1961. Employment was the major interest

of persons interviewed at the centers. Many persons also sought help and advice about language difficulties, polio shots, financial assistance, and United States citizenship. The largest portion of newcomers being served by the Mayor's Committee are from the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi.

In other major projects designed to aid the newcomer, the Commission arranged weekly two-hour classes in the Spanish language and Latin American cultures. These classes were attended by over 100 social workers, nurses, teachers, probation officers, Board of Health nurses, and other professionals who work with the city's Spanish-speaking people.

A Spanish edition of the booklet, "You and Chicago," was issued. The booklet tells the newcomer how to obtain housing, employment, medical care, police and fire protection, recreation, social security benefits, education, and other services with which he may be unfamiliar.

PROGRESS IN MEDICAL CARE

Progress was noted in equality of medical care for all Chicagoans during 1961. There were 19 additional appointments of Negro physicians to medical staff positions during the year--increasing the total number of hospitals with integrated medical staffs from 15 to 28. By the end of the year, 30 Negro physicians held 41 staff appointments at 25 private, non-governmental hospitals other than Provident, Louise Burg, and Ida Mae Scott.

A continuing program is being carried out by the Commission to assure non-discrimination in the admission of patients and the appointment of physicians to staff positions at Chicago hospitals.

The Commission assigned a full-time staff member to assist the Mayor's Special Committee on Hospital Appointments for Negro physicians, formed in 1960 by Mayor Richard J. Daley.

PROGRESS IN HOUSING

During 1961 the Commission noted that white property owners were more ready to accept Negroes as neighbors, wherever the entrance of a Negro family or families into a previously all-white neighborhood did not bring "inundation."

The Commission worked actively in behalf of state fair housing legislation prior to the City Council's passage of a resolution requesting the State legislature to enact a fair housing law. The Commission's executive director toured eastern cities that have such legislation and co-operated with the Department of City Planning in the preparation of a report on the efficacy of fair housing laws in those cities. The Commission testified before the Illinois Legislature's Executive House Committee on the proposed fair housing legislation. During the campaign for a fair housing law, the Commission staff collected and disseminated information from those states and cities which already have fair housing statutes.

In another move to bring about fair housing practices, the Commission published a housing agenda entitled "Housing in Chicago for Non-Whites." The Commission expects real estate brokers, builders, and lenders to meet in small groups to discuss the issues raised by the agenda.

The Commission obtained a ruling from the Illinois Department of Registration and Education that "panic peddling" in real estate is in violation of the Real Estate Brokers and Salesmen law.

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

In helping to secure equal education opportunities, the Commission was instrumental in getting the Illinois Private Business School State Board to establish the administrative ruling that any business school which discriminates against applicants because of race, color, or creed will not receive state approval. This ruling should open the door to the vocational training necessary to improve the economic position of Chicago's minority groups.

During 1961 many privately-owned schools came under the close scrutiny of the Commission. An increasing number of complaints concerning the admission policies of private preparatory schools and schools of cosmetology were handled by the Commission. In one such case, an important Loop school of beauty culture admitted its first Negro man to the basic course in cosmetology.

Throughout the year, the Commission worked closely with the Human Relations Bureau of the Chicago public schools to reduce tensions in schools and communities where racial conflict and hostility were manifested. The chairman and the executive director met several times with the president of the Board of Education and the general superintendent of schools to discuss human relations issues affecting the schools. Conferences with school officials and community leaders were held to plan techniques for improving relationships among the many racial, religious, and ethnic groups in Chicago schools.

The Commission examined the vocational guidance and job placement programs of Chicago schools, concentrating on problems of minority group students. Interviews were conducted at selected high schools, colleges, and universities to determine how placement counselors handle discriminatory job orders.

PROGRESS IN LEGISLATION

Civil rights legislation is among the more important tools used by the Commission in forging advances in human relations. Law has been referred to as "the indispensable advance guard of social change, giving standards to the well-intentioned man, nudging the indifferent, and taming the hostile." The Commission worked many years for the civil rights legislation which came into being in 1961.

The Commission devoted great effort to the state-wide co-operative drive which ultimately resulted in Illinois' Fair Employment Practices law. Illinois thus became the twenty-first state to enact such legislation and the nineteenth to have an enforceable FEP law.

The Mayor's Committee on New Residents, an integral part of the Commission on Human Relations, served as the catalyst which brought together organizations interested in revising the state's credit laws. The staggering number of garnishments and personal bankruptcies, and the upsurge in the use of unethical collection techniques led the Mayor's Committee to organize the successful campaign for credit reform. The new credit legislation passed by the State legislature reflects the influence of the Commission.

Other laws passed by the 1961 Illinois General Assembly prohibit cemeteries from practicing racial discrimination, allow a voter to vote by absentee ballot if he is unable to be at the polls because of his religion, make it possible for a foreign-born doctor to practice medicine, and authorize the Board of Education to hire aliens to teach the language of their native country. Still others ban racial bias in the employment and assignment of personnel in school systems and provide that a pupil or employee of a school system can file a complaint with the superintendent of public instruction if he feels that he has been the victim of discrimination.

In other work connected with legislation, the Commission published a bulletin on the amendment to the land contract buying law. The revision provides added protection for land contract home buyers--many of whom have traditionally come from Chicago's minority groups. Some 1,000 copies were distributed.

PROGRESS IN PUBLIC INFORMATION

A check of Commission records for 1961 shows that more people came to the Commission with human relations problems than in any previous year. In part, this was due to the progress made in the Commission's public information efforts.

Highlights for 1961 included promoting the annual awards luncheon which attracted 800 persons; arranging a weekly series over radio station WBEE about

the Commission work; staging a press conference for editors of high school publications; publishing and circulating to more than 7,000 Chicagoans nine issues of the newsletter, "Human Relations News"; publishing and distributing bulletin board posters and Chicago Transit Authority car-cards encouraging merit employment; administering a speakers program for community meetings; and producing news releases and information bulletins.

More than 25,000 copies of various publications were distributed during the year. The most popular booklet was "Your Civil Rights," a resume of citizens' rights. Others included "Look Before You Leave," "You and Chicago," the Annual Report for 1960, "Legal Remedies Against Panic Peddling," "Your Protection from Fraudulent Selling," "So You're Going to Buy a Home," "An Economic Analysis of Property Values and Race," and "Fair Housing Opportunities."

PROGRESS IN SOCIAL RESEARCH

A population survey of Chicago and the Metropolitan Area was conducted by the Commission's research personnel. Results of this survey were carried in the July issue of "Human Relations News." This was the first complete report published on non-white population changes in Chicago in 1960. More than 20,000 copies of this issue were distributed in 1961.

The data obtained from this survey and other social research projects were used by the Commission in program scheduling, as an aid to the development of new techniques in human relations, and as important background information for the Commission, its staff, and the various advisory committees.

PROGRESS IN ADMINISTRATION

In September, 1961, the Chicago Commission on Human Relations moved from the Board of Health building to new office quarters on the 13th floor of 211 West Wacker Drive. The move provided more space for staff operation along with more modern working facilities.

Also contributing to staff efficiency and morale was an upgrading of some job classifications by the Civil Service Commission. In this action, a new position called Coordinator of Human Relations Services was created to expedite the processing of complaints received by the Commission. Three human relations officers and each of the six department heads of the Commission were upgraded, resulting in more equitable salaries for their highly skilled, professional services.

Four persons who joined staff of the Commission during 1961 have added further to the professionalism of the organization. One of the newcomers is a lawyer with journalistic background; another is a graduate in history with sales experience and currently studying law; another is a veteran newspaperman; and another has many years of experience in working with Spanish-speaking peoples in Chicago.

An in-service training program was inaugurated during 1961 to improve the efficiency of the Commission's professional and clerical staffs. This program was in addition to weekly staff meetings. A day-long conference of staff members was held at which program of the Commission for 1962 was discussed and new ideas developed.

Professional staff of the Commission conduct a 24-hour seven-day-a-week telephone service. This makes it possible for persons to reach the Commission at any time of day or night.

PROGRESS TOMORROW

Although the year 1961 was one of the busiest--and most successful--in the Commission's history, there are many areas of concern that demand further intensive work.

During 1962, the Commission will attempt to widen the occupational horizons of Negro, Spanish-speaking, and Southern white persons to inform them about the many new employment opportunities that are developing.

"If we fail to reach them," the executive director said, "the employment picture will be slow to improve despite all programs in lessening discrimination."

Recognizing that the student who drops out of school today will likely be tomorrow's unemployed, the Commission plans to devote much of its energy to a co-operative program with other organizations in encouraging students to remain in school and acquire the skills needed for a highly specialized and highly competitive job market.

The Commission will concentrate on making available opportunities for adults and newcomers to learn a trade or skill. It will also continue its educational programs on new credit legislation.

Other goals for 1962 include: breaking down of discriminatory practices by some private schools in the admission of students; establishing a close working relationship with school counselors and their programs; increasing the number of apprentices in various trades; working with school officials on current school problems; and working with members of the housing industry.

Last year Chicago's five medical schools had 2,100 students, only 14 of whom were Negroes. Why are there so few applicants at a time when scholarship money and internships are plentiful? The Commission will try to find the answer to this question.

There still are a few but important trades that have no Negro apprentices. The Commission will seek to have Negroes admitted to these programs.

Some people are willing to agree that it is unethical for a real estate broker to use race to scare property owners into selling their homes. We plan to show that it is also unethical for a real estate broker to use race to prevent people from buying, selling, or leasing apartments or homes.

The Commission will continue its efforts to secure state fair housing practices legislation.

The Commission will continue to work to uphold the principle that public facilities are to be used by all citizens regardless of race. And it will continue to persuade employers and unions to adopt policies of merit employment.

And finally, the Commission's frontal assault on questionable credit practices, "panic peddling," and discrimination in medical care will not only continue but be stepped up.

THE CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

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Aaron, Aaron, Schimberg & Hess

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Peter R. Scalise, Attorney

STAFF

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DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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CIVIL RIGHTS SERVICES

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—Delores J. Marchant

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—Lucia Moyado

—Grace T. Yamamoto

STENOGRAPHERS

—Dorothy Forbes

—Patricia A. Guzman

—Pauline Johnson

—Mamie Jones

—Virginia Lasco

—Joy Reingold

—Joanne Smith

—Delores Thomas

Janine Wiczorek

1961-1962 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

THE CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

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Public Relations Board

Community Organization

Chairman
Richard Jaffe, Assistant Director
National Opinion Research Center

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Co-Chairmen
Mrs. James Mason
Charles Monroe, Dean
Wilson Junior College

Employment

Chairman
William G. Caples
Vice President
Inland Steel Company

Health

Chairman
Leonidas H. Berry, M. D.

Housing

Chairman (1961)
John R. Womer, Vice President
Great Lakes Mortgage Corporation

Law and Order

Chairman
Jerome J. Friedman
Attorney

Mayor's Committee

on New Residents

Chairman
Ray L. Walker, Vice President
United States Fidelity and
Guaranty Company

Mayor's Special Committee on Hospital Appointments

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John W. Barrett
Ralph B. Bettman, M. D.
Chief Justice Augustine J. Bowe
Clifford J. Campbell
John C. Eller
Edwin F. Hirsch, M. D.
Laurel E. Keith, M. D.
Will F. Lyon, M. D.
John C. Troxel, M. D.
Quentin D. Young, M. D.

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Chairman
Hale Nelson
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Illinois Bell Telephone Company

Realty and Building Practices

Chairman
John R. Womer
Vice President
Great Lakes Mortgage Corporation

Research

Chairman
Dr. Donald Bogue
Professor of Sociology
University of Chicago

FINANCIAL REPORT 1961

THE CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

<u>Account</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>	<u>Expended</u>
Salaries for 27 Employees	\$175,225	\$166,704
Office and Building Services	500	644
Postage and Postal Charges	2,500	4,138
Publications	10,000	7,204
Repairs and Maintenance of Equipment	200	198
Subscriptions and Dues	500	471
Telephone	3,000	2,987
Automobile Mileage Allowance	2,500	1,508
Reimbursement to Travelers	800	800
Local Transportation	500	789
Stationery and Office Supplies	3,000	3,269
Contingencies	1,000	662
Newcomers Activities (including salaries for 9 employees)	70,000	64,301
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<u>\$269,725</u>	<u>\$253,675</u>

THE CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

211 West Wacker Drive
Room 1310
Chicago 6, Illinois

Telephone: 236-4912

Neighborhood Information Centers
(Mayor's Committee on New Residents)

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Chicago 40, Illinois
Telephone: 561-4350

South Side Center
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Chicago 37, Illinois
Telephone: PLaza 2-8808

West Side Center
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Chicago 23, Illinois
Telephone: 762-2425