

MINUTES

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING September 9, 2021

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Karina Ayala-Bermejo
Joanna Borowiec
Naderh Elrabadi
Kim Fountain

Rochelle Grimbau
Reyahd Kazmi
Leisa Mosley
Ester Nieves

Terrell Odom

Staff Present:

Nancy Andrade
Kenneth Gunn
JoAnn Newsome
Gloria Vu
Karen Wallace

Call to Order

Chair, Nancy Andrade called the meeting to order at 3:35 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.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Andrade presented the minutes of the June 11, 2021 Board meeting to the Board for approval, where upon motion was duly made by Joanna Borowiec to adopt as written, seconded by Leisa Mosley and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

A motion to move into Executive Session was duly made by Ester Nieves, seconded by Terrell Odom, and unanimously adopted.

Adjudication Review Committee

Jessica Davis v Michael Andiorio and MVA Property Management LLC, CCHR No. 18-H-33

Karen Wallace provided a summary of this source of housing discrimination case.

The Hearing Officer recommended the following relief:

- Respondents are ordered to pay the Complainant \$7,500 in emotional distress damages
- Respondents are ordered to pay the Complainant \$7,500 in punitive damages
- Respondents are ordered to pay the Complainant interest on emotional distress and punitive damages from the date of violation on February 5, 2018
- Respondents are ordered to place in all advertisements or any social media listings the following information: "Equal Housing Opportunity Provider" and "Section 8/HCV voucher recipients encouraged to apply"
- Respondents are ordered to pay a fine to the City of Chicago in the amount of \$1,000
- Respondents are ordered to pay Complainant's reasonable attorney fees and cost

The Board accepted the Hearing Officer's recommendations but agreed to eliminate the language for the advertising regarding HCV applicants upon the suggestion of Karen Wallace. She explained that such language may suggest a preference for HCV tenants which could be viewed as discriminatory. A motion was made by

Terrell Odom to accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation absent the provision to include in all advertisements "Section8/HCV voucher recipients encouraged to apply." The motion was seconded by Ester Nieves and passed unanimously.

A motion to end the Executive Session was made by Joanna Borowiec and seconded by Leisa Mosley, and unanimously approved.

Commissioner's Report

Chair Andrade provided an update on the filling of vacancies in the department. She stated that the process of hiring for the Human Relations Investigator II is moving along and interviews will begin next week. Chair Andrade also reported that the hiring process for the Director of Intergroup Relations position will also begin soon.

Chair Andrade then briefly discussed the mayor's new plans for the City Budget process. For the 2022 Budget, there will be a series of community budget open forums where the public will be able to attend and sit down and have discussions about what should be funded in the budget. The forums will be interactive and will give the public the opportunity to meet with city officials to discuss budget priorities.

Finally, Chair Andrade announced that the City Clerk will host a series of Mobile City Hall resource fairs into the month of October. The fairs will provide the public with opportunities to speak with representatives from many city departments, including the CCHR, and obtain City Key identification cards and other services.

Advisory Council Reports

Commissioners Ester Nieves (Equity), Terrell Odom (Veterans), Kim Fountain (Women's), and Karina Ayala-Bermejo (New Americans) provided brief updates of the status and activities of their respective advisory councils.

Old Business

Chair Andrade reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee on Asian Hate Crimes continues to meet and is working towards the development of a white paper at the conclusion of its work tentatively for January 2022. She also mentioned that plans for the Human Relations Summit have been somewhat delayed due to other projects, but the program is still in the planning stages.

Next Meeting

October 14, 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 Ester Nieves was seconded by Terrell Odom and was unanimously adopted at 4:07 p.m.