

MINUTES

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING June 11, 2020

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Joanna Borowiec
Ryan Dunigan
Emanuel Johnson, II
Stephanie Kanter

Reyahd Kazmi
Ray Koenig, III
Leisa Mosley
David Mussatt

Nabeela Rasheed
Julio Rodriguez
Michelle Shang

Staff Present:

Kenneth Gunn
JoAnn Newsome

Kelly Saulsberry
Gloria Vu

Karen Wallace

Call to Order

Acting Commissioner Kenneth (Ken) Gunn called the meeting to order at 3:44 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

Ken presented the minutes of the May 2020 Board meeting to the Board for approval, where upon motion was duly made by Reyahd Kazmi to adopt as written, seconded by Julio Rodriguez and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

Reactions and Responses to the George Floyd Murder

Ken explained to the Board that he thought it was important for everyone to have a chance to share their feelings and thoughts about the George Floyd murder. He initiated the conversation by saying how watching the video was very upsetting and made him recall back to the Laquan McDonald shooting which he said was the toughest thing he ever had to watch. Board members shared similar concerns about the shooting and wanted to know what steps, if any, the City is taking to prevent police shootings such as this.

Joanna Borowiec asked if the CCHR can provide non-bias training for police officers. Ken explained that the CCHR does not participate in the police training on a regular basis but has done so in the past. At Ken's request, Kelly Saulsberry then talked briefly about the training on sexual orientation and race she conducted with the Center on Halsted for the police command staff in 2019. Joanna voiced support for the CCHR taking a larger role in future police trainings. Reyahd Kazmi agreed with Joanna and suggested that the CCHR contact the Mayor's Office about being more involved in police training. Michelle Shang supported the idea and suggested that the CCHR start locally first and then move beyond city limits to help bring about change.

Return to Work Plans for CCHR

Ken mentioned that the City is slowly going into phase III of the Mayor's Five-step plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that CCHR staff have been working from home during the quarantine with minimal trips to the office and has recently started a rotating schedule. For now, the building is closed to the public, so the CCHR is not taking in-person complaints. All complaints and filings will continue to be emailed or sent by mail.

CCHR's Hate Crime Video Training

Ken mentioned that the CCHR teamed up with the Chinese American Service League (CASL) and Asians Advancing Justice to host a town hall meeting on hate crimes. In preparation for the event, the CCHR worked with CASL to develop a hate crime training video which has been made available to the public online. The link to the video was sent to the Board in a previous email.

Acting Commissioner's Report

Ken reported that there has been a decrease in the number of complaints the CCHR has received since the office has been closed to the public since March. He explained that the CCHR receives most of its complaints in-person but is still accepting and receiving complaints via email or by mail.

Ken also announced that the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), which CCHR is a member of, will be hosting a series of virtual town hall meetings. The first one will be "Human Rights in an Era of Uprisings and the Pandemic," June 26, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Lastly, Ken reported that there has been a delay in having reappointments to the Board made by the Mayor's Office due to the immediate focus being on the pandemic. He will notify the Board as he obtains more information.

Next Meeting

July 09, 2020 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 Stephanie Kanter and was seconded by Emanuel Johnson, II and was unanimously adopted at 4:26 p.m.