

# MINUTES

## CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING September 10, 2020

### Attendance

#### Commissioners Present:

Joanna Borowiec  
Naderh Elrabadi  
Simon Gordan  
Rochelle Grimbau

Emanuel Johnson, II  
Stephanie Kanter  
Reyahd Kazmi  
Nabeela Rasheed

Michelle Shang  
Butch Trusty

#### 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 3:35 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

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

### Commissioner's Report

#### Deputy Commissioner Position

Acting Commissioner, Ken Gunn announced and congratulated Attorney JoAnn Newsome's promotion as Deputy Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner JoAnn Newsome will be working with the CCHR for 22 years in December. Congratulations JoAnn!

#### Office Update and Status

The CCHR will be open to be public on a limited basis sometime in September by appointment only. Once the office is officially open, the office will be open to receive in-person complaints for discrimination complaints by appointment only. Ken Gunn is proactively looking for other city spaces where the CCHR can hold hearings that can accommodate 8-10 people since the largest room at the Commission can only hold up to a maximum of six people. Mediations are now being scheduled and are well on their way.

#### 2021 Budget

The City of Chicago announced that the city has a \$1.2 billion deficit. The CCHR was informed by the Budget and Management Department that there will be layoffs. The CCHR staff have been informed of potential layoffs and will be updated as more information becomes available from the Budget Department.

#### Monthly Agency-Wide Report

Acting Commissioner Ken Gunn explained the CCHR's performance metrics and statistics from this year to date compared to last year's 2019 numbers for each category. Since the CCHR office has been closed to the public, discrimination cases have been down because many complaints are filed in person. Amid the pandemic, CCHR investigators have been diligently taking complaints over the phone. One change from last year is that people are reporting more housing discrimination around this time compared to last year's numbers. As for all of the

other categories listed, including hate crime, mediations, and presentations, numbers of complaints filed have been steadily lower than last year's.

#### Advisory Council Appointments

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot made appointments to the different Advisory Councils that include the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Equity, Advisory Council on LGBTQ+ issues, and the Advisory Council on Women. Board member, Butch Trusty explained that the Advisory Council for LGBTQ+ intentionally left room on the Advisory Council in case there is a need to add more members in the future.

#### **Fair Housing Testing and Training Project: Summary of Findings**

Acting Commissioner, Ken Gunn will invite Roosevelt University to meet with the Board to explain the Fair Housing Testing and Outreach project. Roosevelt University and the CCHR are presently working on condensing the report so that it will be more manageable.

#### **New Business**

##### Requests for the Board

Ken Gunn is asking the Board of Commissioners for their expertise and requests that the Board members assist the CCHR's community outreach by providing names and contact information of three to five organizations that will be beneficial for the CCHR to partner with. The list of community organizations should be forwarded to Gloria.

Ken Gunn also mentioned that time for filling out the census is running out because the deadline for the census will be at the end of September. To assist the CCHR's Census outreach efforts, Ken asked the Board for organizations and events where the City can come out and share information about the Census, and to provide the CCHR with event details to promote the census.

#### **Next Meeting**

October 8, 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 the Board and was unanimously adopted at 4:16 p.m.