

MINUTES

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING June 11, 2021

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Joanna Borowiec
Naderh Elrabadi
Kim Fountain
Emanuel Johnson, II

Ray Koenig, III
Leisa Mosley
Nabeela Rasheed
Julio Rodriguez

Michelle Shang
Butch Trusty

Staff Present:

Kenneth Gunn
JoAnn Newsome
Gloria Vu

Call to Order

First Deputy Commissioner, Kenneth Gunn called the meeting to order at 3:32 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

First Deputy Commissioner, Ken Gunn presented the minutes of the April 2021 Board meeting to the Board for approval, where upon motion was duly made by Joanna Borowiec to adopt as written, seconded by Ray Koenig, III and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

Commissioner's Report

Brief updates on Board appointments, Bishop Simon Gordan has decided to not re-new his term this year. The CCHR and the Mayor's office has been working on expired board members' terms but are diligently working on renewing board appointments.

Regarding vacancies at the CCHR, we have four open vacancies and of the four, we are looking to fill two of the positions soon. We have been in contact with the Human Resources Department, and we are close to having a Human Relations Specialist II starting soon, who will mainly work with employment discrimination complaints. The CCHR is working with HR to post the vacancies on the city website in the upcoming week.

The CCHR has a couple of programs happening this summer, which includes, "Storytime with Judy Hsu." This program is targeted to teach young children about the importance of how differences can be a positive thing. Judy Hsu has agreed to read the story and we are looking for children under 10 years old to participate. This program will be livestreamed through zoom. Registration and the event flyer can be found the Commission's website under "Events and Library."

Board Member, Kim Fountain who represents the Advisory Council on Women also provided an update and stated that the Gender Based Violence sub-committee will be working with Mayor's office, city departments, sister agencies, as well as survivors to build a strategic plan. Kim will receive the Health and the Economic Security sub-committees' reports soon and will give updates at the next board meeting.

Board Member, Emanuel Johnson, II, who represents the Veteran's Council, wanted to thank the mayor's office and the rest of the city for the presentation at the Daley Plaza for Memorial Day. They did not have the usual

fan base they have every year, but it was a great event. Emanuel expressed his gratitude towards the city and everyone who helped make the event a success to honor the fallen service members.

Board Member, Butch Trusty, who represents the LGBTQ+ Advisory Council, has stated that the council has settled on focusing on increasing awareness and access to mental health for members of the LGBTQ+ community. A big focus the council will talk about next week, would be to understand what the sister agencies and the city has already done the LGBTQ+ community and will then work on a set of recommendations for the mayor's office.

Butch also mentions that he and Commissioner Andrade has been working on a webinar called, "Care and Respect: Supporting and Affirming Chicago's Trans and Nonbinary Communities." This webinar will focus on affirming identities in the workplace which will be livestreamed on June 30th at 2:00 PM. Registration and the event flyer can be found the Commission's website under "Events and Library."

Old Business

Board member, Ray Koenig, II, provided updates regarding the CLE Program initiative which Ray has been working on a presentation with Commissioner Andrade, Deputy Commissioner, JoAnn Newsome, and Director of Human Rights Compliance, Karen Wallace. The CLE program is scheduled for June 24th from 2:00-4:00 PM and is open to CBA members and to attorneys who are not members, with a small fee. Ray and the CCHR panelists will explain the process from start to finish. This program is sponsored by the Committee on Human Rights at the CBA, and this program is targeted towards new attorneys and attorneys who may potentially represent those in need of legal representation at the Commission.

First Deputy Commissioner, Ken Gunn, provided updates regarding the Anti-Asian Hate Crimes Ad Hoc Committee. Board member, Michelle Shang is the chair on the committee and has been working with Commissioner Andrade and Ken Gunn on compiling a list of committee members to be approved by the mayor's office. More information will be shared once the committee meets.

Ken Gunn further explained that Commissioner Andrade's plan was to bring the concept of Unity Month back which was a concept several years ago. The mayor's office of engagement plans on being heavily involved with the planning process as well as provide ample resources for Unity Month. To successfully plan, the planning committee is scheduled to meet the first week of December.

Moving on, the planning committee for the Human Relations Summit met earlier this week. This will be an expansion on the Hate Crimes Summit that was previously done under Commissioner Noriega from 2014- 2017. Up until now, there has been a push to meet in person for the summit. Members on the planning committee have been actively meeting with universities and hotels for potential donated space for the summit be an in-person event. Ken has mentioned that the CCHR may rely on the Board's connections and resources for this summit to be a success.

Next Meeting

July 8, 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 Leisa Mosley and was unanimously adopted at 3:54 p.m.