



Chicago Commission
on Human Relations

CIVIL RIGHTS IN ACTION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Nancy Andrade
Chair & Commissioner

Welcome Message

Welcome to this edition of Civil Rights in Action, our quarterly newsletter that highlights the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' (CCHR) work for the second quarter of 2025.

The CCHR is the City's civil rights agency, and our mission remains steadfast despite the current political climate stemming from the federal government. Anyone who has experienced discrimination has rights in Chicago regardless of one's immigration status. We encourage you to reach out to us if you believe you have experienced discrimination. Our service is free of charge, and we can provide ASL and language interpretation. In this newsletter edition we include our most recent rulings made by the CCHR Board of Commissioners.

In April, the CCHR created a social story about family separation. This was a special project, a true labor of love in response to the anxiety and uncertainty families face when experiencing separation. The message of the story applies to all types of separation; be it due to family circumstances or to immigration policies.

This summer, the CCHR will be submitting two important reports. The first is the 2025 Annual Hate Crimes Report due by July 1st to the joint City Council Committees on Health and Human Relations, and Public Safety. This report will take a close look at data in connection to hate crimes and hate incidents reported to the Police Department. The second report, due on August 3rd, pertains to the Transfemicide Ordinance that was passed by the City Council in February of this year. It will highlight initial recommendations to the Committee on Health and Human Relations. The report will take a deeper look at the safety and well-being of the transgender and diverse BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities.

Our "Think Before You Hate" podcast continues to be our premier platform to discuss all the latest topics regarding civil rights. It provides a space for thought-provoking discussions aimed at creating positive change. This quarter we are proud to feature Raymond Chang, and Fatima Abueid, two extraordinary leaders working to unite the community. We also take a close look at the CCHR's work with victims of hate crimes and with communities impacted by hate.

Do you have an idea for a podcast episode? Who are the unsung heroes in your community that are creating positive change? Would you like the CCHR to give a presentation to your community on Discrimination Know Your Rights? A workshop on hate crimes? Let us know!

June is a month of celebrations, and we stand in solidarity with the African American and LGBTQIA+ communities to celebrate Juneteenth and Pride! This July will mark the 249th year of American Independence, let us celebrate by working to preserve our cherished rights and freedoms.

Respectfully,

Nancy Andrade

Commissioner Andrade



Discrimination Ruling Report



Our Adjudication Unit is responsible for investigating discrimination complaints and our Board of Commissioners make final decisions about (a) whether a respondent violated one of the discrimination ordinances as claimed in the complaint and (b) what remedies the Commission ordered if a violation was found. Recently, there were two Board decisions on cases presented to the CCHR.

In *Holloway v. Gold Star Hospitality, Inc. d/b/a Burger King*, CCHR No. 23-P-28, the Board of Commissioners ruled in favor of the complainant, finding that Burger King engaged in disability discrimination by failing to provide accessible parking spaces violating the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance. The Board awarded the complainant \$500 in emotional distress damages plus interest from the date of the incident as well as a \$5,000 fine payable to the City of Chicago and ordered the respondent to bring its parking lot into compliance by providing accessible parking.

In the second recent ruling, *Roberts, Individually and on behalf of her minor daughter v. Pizza Capri-Hyde Park*, CCHR No. 22-P-21, the Board found that Pizza Capri-Hyde Park did not commit an act of discrimination. The complainant and her daughter could not prove that the dogs that they carried into a crate into the restaurant, Pizza Capri, were service animals. Therefore, the Board issued a ruling of no liability.

To view all decisions and precedents from the CCHR, please [click here](#) for more information.

Social Story



Commissioner Andrade and Zully Ramirez on Telemundo Chicago discussing "My Family Has Changed". [Click here](#) to see the news segment.

We were featured in Telemundo Chicago this past April for our work in creating the "My Family Has Changed" social story. This social story is a resource for all families experiencing any type of separation such as foster care or immigration. This publication is free and available in English and Spanish. [Click here](#) for the digital version or if you would like a hard copy, please reach out to us at cchr@cityofchicago.org.

We worked with the Department of Public Health, the Department of Family and Support Services, and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights to make sure it is supportive, accessible, and culturally relevant. The story is a helpful tool for parents, caregivers, teachers, social workers, and community organizations to support children in understanding and coping with these changes.

The Transfemicide Ordinance

The CCHR is leading the working group created by the Transfemicide Ordinance that was passed by the City Council in February of this year. The work of the working group will span through February of 2027 and the initial report, due by August 3rd, will be posted on the CCHR website for the public to access.

The working group includes the CCHR, the Chicago Police Department, the Chicago Department of Public Health, and the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services together with expertise and advice from community groups and intergovernmental stakeholders. This June and July, the CCHR is hosting three community meetings that will engage in much needed dialogue on the safety and well-being of the transgender and diverse BIPOC communities. These are conversations that must happen for healing and growth.

The CCHR is working with the following community partners for this very important work: Brave Space Alliance, Life is Work, Franciscan Outreach, LAMBDA Legal, Equality Illinois, CALOR Chicago, Center on Halsted, Taskforce Chicago, ABA SOGI Commission (Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), Chicago Therapy Collective, Howard Brown Health, Office of the Mexican Consulate General, Transformative Law Project of Illinois, LAGBAC, (Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association).

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TRANSFEMICIDE ORDINANCE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The City of Chicago Wants To Hear From You!

THIS IS A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL.

***SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES**
We want to work together to improve the outcomes for the transgender community. We are committed to uplifting our transgender community and ensuring their safety by working together.

***BUILDING A BETTER CHICAGO TOGETHER**
Tell us about the current needs of the transgender community and how we can best support you!

***JOIN US AT A LOCAL COMMUNITY MEETING NEAR YOU!**

Dates and Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

- June 10th: Amundsen Park Fieldhouse
- July 10th: Jackson Park Fieldhouse
- July 30th: Broadway Armory Park

We also count on the collaboration of intergovernmental stakeholders from Cook County, including the State's Attorney Office, Sheriff's Office, Medical Examiner, Human Rights Commission and the Circuit Court.

Our first meeting took place on June 10th at the Amundsen Park Fieldhouse. Our next two meetings will occur July 10th at Jackson Park Fieldhouse and July 30th at Broadway Armory Park. Both meetings will start at 6:30 PM and end at 8:00 PM. These meetings are a safe space, come as you are. Bring a friend.

Please see [HERE](#) for more details. We hope to see you at the next community meeting. Your voice is important!

The THINK BEFORE YOU HATE Podcast

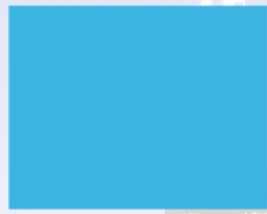


Our second quarter started off with an insightful episode about anti-Asian hate and violence with Raymond Chang, President of the Asian American Christian Collaborative. He shared his personal experience navigating life as an Asian American in Chicago and across the U.S. His episode gives valuable insights into Black-Asian solidarity efforts in the city and the role of religious communities in building bridges.

We also released two powerful new episodes. One spotlights CCHR's work with victims of hate crimes. We hear from Danny Serrano, Director of Intergroup Relations, and Norman White, our Hate Crime Victim Advocate (both pictured above). They walk us through how the CCHR supports victims of hate crimes, each case is unique and is handled accordingly but most importantly each is handled with care and respect. The other episode features Fatima Abueid, founder of SANAD, a social services agency, that was founded in response to the rise of anti-Muslim hate after the 911 attacks of 2001. Ms. Abueid chronicles the journey of her organization and how it has adjusted to serve the diverse residents in the community. She is making a meaningful impact in the West Lawn community, one that truly personifies unity

We have many more episodes lined up for 2025 and look forward to continuing conversations with dedicated leaders that are working to build a more inclusive world. To check out our podcast, [click here](#).





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on Human Relations

Thank you for reading this edition of our newsletter. Enjoy all the activities Chicago offers in the summer. Happy Summer 2025.

If you or anyone you know feels they have been a victim of discrimination in the City of Chicago, contact the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

To learn more about the CCHR, log onto www.chicago.gov/cchr.



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Do not forget to check out the Think Before You Hate podcast available on our website where we discuss the latest topics concerning civil rights in the City of Chicago!

