



## CCHR, A Closer Look

July 2021

Welcome back Chicago! After a 16-month hiatus, the Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) reopened its doors on July 6, 2021. While we never stopped working to address discrimination, hate crimes, and community tensions, we are very excited to return to in-person meetings and programs. We are open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. New discrimination complaints can be filed from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. While appointments are not required, they are encouraged. Please call 312-744-4111 to schedule or email us at [cchr@cityofchicago.org](mailto:cchr@cityofchicago.org).

For your safety and ours, the CCHR will continue to follow the CDC guidelines including wearing masks, providing hand sanitizers, and social distancing.

We have also resumed all field work activities such as conducting community outreach, assisting hate crime victims, mediating community conflicts, and conducting educational workshops. The pandemic has helped us all to rethink how we do our work, so we will continue to use Zoom and other meeting platforms to operate remotely when possible. We are here for you, so please let us know how we can be of assistance.



**Nancy C. Andrade**  
Chair and Commissioner

## AD-HOC Committee on Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate Crimes



Working with the Office of the Mayor, the CCHR recently created the Committee on Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate Crimes, as an ad-hoc committee of the CCHR Board of Commissioners. The committee is chaired by board member, Michelle Shang (pictured) and brings together 25 members of the diverse Asian, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities to openly discuss and share ideas on how to inform and empower the community on identifying and reporting hate crimes. The first meeting of the committee took place June 7, 2021. Recent waves of crimes and incidents targeting the AAPI community across the nation are a grave concern to the safety and well-being of all Chicagoans. The committee's work will culminate in a series of recommendations for action to be presented to Mayor Lightfoot. We look forward to working with the committee and receiving their valued input to this challenging problem.

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## Care and Respect: Supporting Trans & Nonbinary Communities

In celebration of Pride Month, on June 30, 2021, Chicago's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council and the Chicago Commission on Human Relations hosted a conversation on what it means to affirm identities with respect and care. The webinar featured Channyn Parker (Howard Brown Health), Chris Thoren (2<sup>nd</sup> Story), and Megan Carney (About Face Theatre) who explored the connections between our personal and professional experiences, highlighting the joy of finding one's community. The panelists were very engaging, and their personal stories were powerful and enlightening. It was a great lesson on the importance of supporting one another regardless of our very different



**CARE AND RESPECT:**  
Supporting and Affirming  
Chicago's Trans and Nonbinary Communities

**Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 2:00 PM**

Join Chicago's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council and the Chicago Commission on Human Relations for a conversation on what it means to affirm identities with respect and care. Featuring **Channyn Parker**, **Chris Thoren**, and **Victor Marquez**, in conversation with **Megan Carney**, this webinar covers pronouns and their importance, explores the connections between our personal and professional experiences, and highlights the joy of finding one's community.



Please register in advance at:  
[www.chicago.gov/cchr](http://www.chicago.gov/cchr) under Events and Library  
ASL Interpretation and closed captioning will be available.  
Please request additional accommodations in advance of the  
webinar date by emailing us at:  
[CCHRwebinars@cityofchicago.org](mailto:CCHRwebinars@cityofchicago.org)

backgrounds. The CCHR looks forward to hosting similar conversations in the upcoming months. Thanks, Channyn, Chris and Megan!

## CCHR Training Seminars

On June 24, 2021, Commissioner Nancy Andrade and Hate Crime Victim Advocate, Norman White presented at a **Hate Crimes Awareness seminar with the Vietnamese Association of Illinois**. The purpose of the seminar was to train the community how to identify and report hate crimes. With the growing issue of hatred and discrimination impacting the Asian community, the CCHR is committed to expanding its outreach efforts to the city's diverse Asian community.

On June 24, 2021, the CCHR conducted a legal training on **How to Represent Clients Before the CCHR for the Chicago Bar Association**. Panelists included Deputy Commissioner JoAnn Newsome, Director of Compliance Karen Wallace, and CCHR Hearing Officer, Kate Yannias. The seminar provided practical information for attorneys on the nuances of representing clients in actions brought under the Chicago Human Rights and Fair Housing Ordinances. The CCHR thanks Ray J. Koenig, III, CCHR Board Member and CBA Second Vice-President for organizing this event and serving as its moderator.

## CCHR goes to school: U & T Visa Training

In 2017, as part of our outreach efforts to Chicago's immigrant and refugee community, the CCHR began the process of holding itself out as an agency that could, under certain circumstances,



certify for U visa and T visa applications. U visas may be obtained by victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. Similarly, T visas provide a temporary immigration benefit that enables certain victims of a severe form of human trafficking to remain in the United States for up to four years if they have assisted law enforcement in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking.

In this capacity, the CCHR can play a potentially significant role in the granting of immigration relief to undocumented complainants who pursue claims of discrimination before the CCHR. To further our understanding of the immigration laws concerning U and T visas, on June 16, 2021, all CCHR staff participated in a training by Amina Najib and Anna Maitland, Supervising Attorneys with Legal Aid Chicago. The session was an eye-opener for everyone as we learned more about these visas and the extent of the human trafficking problem locally. We wholeheartedly recommend this training. Thanks Amina and Anna.

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## Storytime with ABC's Judy Hsu



On June 23, 2021, Chicagoland youngsters were privileged to join ABC 7 anchor, Judy Hsu for a reading of "Dumpling Soup." This delightful story introduces children to multi-culturalism through the story of 7-year-old Marisa, and discusses how her family, which is composed of members of Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and Hawaiian descent celebrates New Year's Eve. The CCHR is so grateful to Judy for giving of her time to help us reach our youth with this important message about valuing and celebrating diversity.

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# Announcements



The CCHR is excited to have two new student interns with us for the summer. Elizabeth Flores is a graduate student at the University of Chicago studying International Relations. Adam Faber is a senior at the University of Illinois-Chicago studying Political Science. Both Elizabeth and Adam have hit the ground running, working on several projects including helping launch the Ad-Hoc Committee on Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate Crimes, researching legislative initiatives, and learning how to investigate discrimination complaints. Great having you with us, Elizabeth and Adam!

## Board of Commissioners

### Board Meetings:

August 12, 2021  
September 9, 2021  
October 14, 2021

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
via Zoom

\*Meeting times are subject to change.  
Please call (312) 744-4404 for more information.

[Join CCHR's Board Meeting](#)

## Calendar of Events

- Advisory Council on LGBTQ+ Meeting, September 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
- Advisory Council on New Americans Meeting, September 23, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

### Chicago Commission on Human Relations

740 North Sedgwick Street, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60654

**Main:** (312) 744-4111

**Fax:** (312) 744-1081

**TTY:** (312) 744-1088

**Email:** [cchr@cityofchicago.org](mailto:cchr@cityofchicago.org)

[CCHR Website](#)



### **Filing Complaints**

**Employment:** (312) 744-4111

**Housing:** (312) 744-5879

**Public Accommodation:** (312) 744-5879

**Credit:** (312) 744-5879

**Hate Crimes:** (312) 744-4874

**Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot**

**Commissioner Nancy C. Andrade**



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