



Commission on Human Relations

Dana Starks, Commissioner
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Central Purpose

- Prevent discrimination in Chicago through education and intervention programs that discourage bigotry and foster unity among the city’s diverse population
- Investigate and adjudicate complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit transactions and bonding; impose fines, damages and injunctive orders where a violation is found

Key Facts

The Commission on Human Relations exists to ensure that Chicagoans are not denied access to housing, employment, public accommodations, or credit based on their race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, parental status, military discharge status or source of income.

The Commission is charged with enforcing the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. It receives and investigates discrimination complaints. If substantial evidence of a violation is found, it conducts an administrative hearing and rules on liability and relief.

The Commission also assists any victims of hate crimes and will mobilize the community to prevent further acts from occurring. Educational workshops on hate crimes, conflict resolution, and diversity are conducted for schools, faith-based institutions, community organizations and public agencies. Eight advisory councils serve as liaisons between the City and their constituent communities.

Goals

After significantly reducing its investigation backlog, the Commission now seeks to undertake more proactive ordinance education and enforcement. In 2010, 53% of dispositions ending the investigation stage of a complaint were reached within 180 days of



filing and 78% within one year. In 2011, the Commission will strive to improve time to complete investigations.

Hate crimes continue to be a concern for the city and the Commission. While the number of hate crimes has remained relatively low in the past several years, the Commission unequivocally believes that “one hate crime is one too many.” Thus, the department will continue to work to educate the community about hate crimes and seek to reduce the incidence of these acts even further.

The Commission also works proactively to prevent community tensions by providing educational workshops and fostering community dialogue. In 2010, Commission staff made 103 presentations, attended 158 community meetings, and hosted a variety of other programs throughout the city. Staff also responded to 45 community tensions based on racial, religious, economic and other areas of difference.

Employees

Full Time Positions	Amount
	33

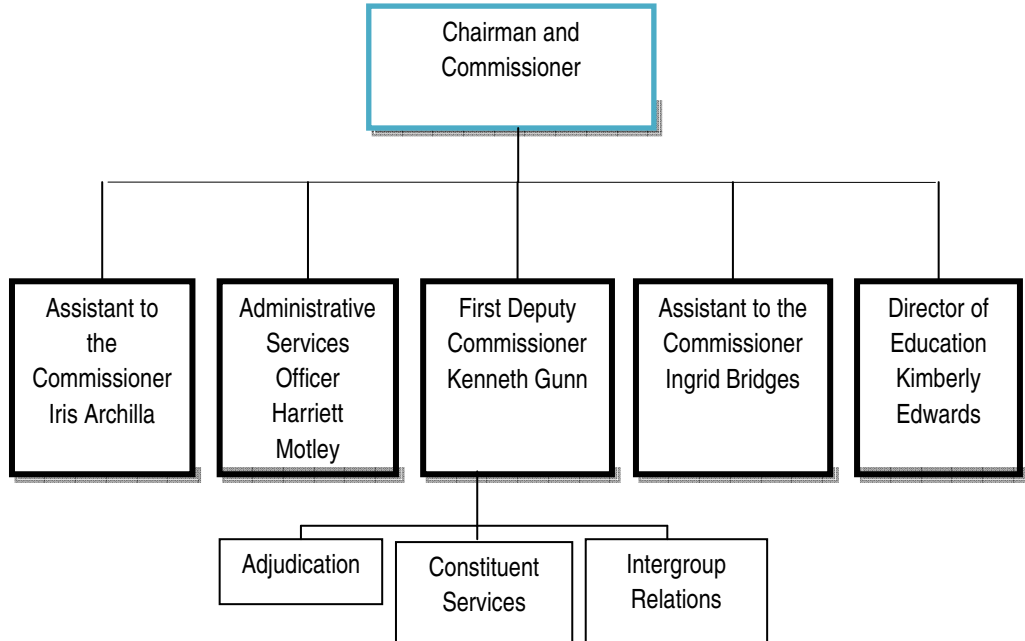
2011 Budget

Fund	Amount
Corporate Fund	\$1,905,381
Community Development Block Grant	\$1,286,559
TOTAL	\$3,191,940

Grants

Federal	Term
CDBG	2011

Organizational Chart



Facility Locations

Location	Address	Suite	Zip	Phone	Hours
Commission on Human Relations	740 N. Sedgwick Street	300	60654	(312) 744-4111	M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sat., 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Unions Representing Department Employees

Unions
AFSCME