

MINUTES

**CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR)
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
November 12, 2020**

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Joanna Borowiec
Naderh Elrabadi
Emanuel Johnson, II

Stephanie Kanter
Reyahd Kazmi
Ray Koenig, III

David Mussatt
Michelle Shang
Butch Trusty

Staff Present:

Kenneth Gunn
Kelly Saulsberry

Gloria Vu
Karen Wallace

Call to Order

Acting Commissioner Kenneth (Ken) Gunn called the meeting to order at 3:36 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 September 2020 Board meeting to the Board for approval, where upon motion was duly made by Ray Koenig, III to adopt as written, seconded by Stephanie Kanter and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

Adjudication Review Committee Report

Mendoza v Premium Parking LLC, CCHR No. 18-E-56

Karen Wallace provided a summary of this discrimination case based on discrimination in employment. In this case, the Commission entered a finding of liability on May 14, 2020. As part of the damages that were awarded, the complainant was awarded attorney's fees. In making the recommendation on attorney's fees, the hearing officer noted that complainant's attorney provided very little information in the petition for which the award could be based. As a result, the hearing officer reviewed prior CCHR precedents and determined that the more appropriate amount for Attorney Williams should be \$12,250 and \$1,325 for Attorney Huber, for a total of \$13,575 in attorney's fees. The hearing officer reviewed the total number of hours billed by each attorney and reduced the total hours for Attorney Williams from 24.75 hours to 24.50 hours.

Board member Ray Koenig, III recommended accepting the hearing officer's recommendation with an adjustment to accept Attorney William's original proposed rate, which would total in the amount of \$14,800 in attorney's fees. The Board of Commissioner's accepted the hearing officer's recommendation with Ray's adjustment to accept the attorney's original rate. Emanuel Johnson, II made a motion to accept; it was seconded by Reyahd Kazmi and unanimously adopted.

Commissioner's Report

Ken reported that the City announced that there will be budget cuts citywide. The CCHR currently has four vacancies but will not be able to fill those vacancies until late 2021 or at all depending on the budget.

Regarding COVID-19 and the Commission, Ken stated the CCHR will continue to be open to the public by appointment only for new complaint filings. He noted that the CCHR has begun to take complaints over the phone which has increased the number of new filings, in addition to those that are received online. He reported that CCHR staff have been coming into the office on staggered schedules and will continue with this schedule

until further notice. Staff have also been working in COVID contact tracing with the Department of Public Health as well as participating in Census outreach. He also reported that hate crime complaints continue to be low and complaints in general have been about 10% lower than usual.

American Jewish Committee (AJC)

Laurence Bolotin and Jason Rosensweig from AJC shared a presentation called, "The Working Definition of Anti-Semitism" with the Board of Commissioners. The presentation included what anti-Semitism is, how to recognize it, and what people can do about it. Laurence will also share a draft resolution with the Board. The Board of Commissioners were surprised by the number of people who did not know what anti-Semitism is, but enjoyed the informative presentation. The Board of Commissioners look forward to reading the proposed resolution to further connect it to CCHR's mission and to also connect it within our communities.

Next Meeting

December 10, 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 4:25 p.m.