

MINUTES

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING January 14, 2021

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Naderh Elrabadi
Kim Fountain
Simon Gordon
Rochelle Grimbau
Emanuel Johnson, II

Stephanie Kanter
Leisa Mosley
David Mussatt
Esther Nieves
Nabeela Rasheed

Julio Rodriguez
Michelle Shang
Butch Trusty

Staff Present:

Kenneth Gunn
JoAnn Newsome

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 November 2020 Board meeting to the Board for approval, where upon motion was duly made by Rochelle Grimbau to adopt as written, seconded by Simon Gordon and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

Commissioner's Report

Ken was pleased to announce the mayor's appointment of Nancy Andrade as CCHR's new Commissioner. He briefly stated that Commissioner Andrade has a background in public law and was recently on staff at the American Bar Association. Commissioner Andrade is set to start at the end of January. Ken also informed the Board that Kelly Suzanne Saulsberry, Director of Policy and Outreach had recently moved on from the CCHR. He expressed his gratitude for her efforts and contributions to the CCHR and wished her all the best.

Ken reported that the CCHR currently has four vacancies but depending on the budget, we will not be able to fill those vacancies until late 2021, if at all. Ken also added that he will lead the Inter-Group Relations (IGR) unit until the supervisor's vacancy is filled.

Ken has also stated that the CCHR will continue to be open to the public by appointment only for new complaint filings. The CCHR has continued to take complaints over the phone which has increased the number of new filings. The CCHR staff has been coming into the office on staggered schedules and will continue with this schedule until further notice.

Old Business

At the Board's November 2020 meeting, Executive Director, Laurence Bolotin and Jason Rosensweig from the American Jewish Committee (AJC) provided a presentation on "The Working Definition of Anti-Semitism." The presentation included what anti-Semitism is, how to recognize it, and what people can do about it. The AJC had provided a draft resolution calling for an adoption of the working definition of Anti-Semitism, but due to the length of the meeting, the resolution was not voted on. In the January meeting, the Board held a robust discussion on the resolution with the full participation of the body. The Board recommended having further

discussion of the issue at its next meeting to provide an opportunity for individuals and organizations with opposing viewpoints to share their concerns with the Board prior to the resolution being called for a vote.

Next Meeting

February 11, 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 the Board and was unanimously adopted at 4:42 p.m.