

MINUTES

**CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR)
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Nancy Andrade, Chair
Karina Ayala Bermejo
Jennifer Eleazar
Ray Gonzalez
Margaret Kulujian

Marta Cerda
Daniel Goldwin
Daniel Hernandez
Michael Takada

Staff Present:

Maria Balderas
Marisol Gallegos
Kristen Lee
Yaritsa Perez

Alex Chaves
Kenneth Gunn
JoAnn Newsome
Daniel Serrano

Call to Order

Commissioner Andrade welcomed the board members. There being no quorum, she proceeded with her report.

Commissioner’s Report

Commissioner Andrade noted there are no cases to review and she introduced the two new CCHR staff: Alex Chaves, Public Relations Representative and Yaritsa Perez, Project Coordinator. Commissioner Andrade announced that the Think Before You Hate Campaign has been launched. Think Before You Hate ads are running on CTA trains and L stations in neighborhoods such as Rogers Park. Commissioner Andrade then moved on to the topic of the 2025 budget. This year will be challenging due to the hiring freeze as CCHR has two open positions. Commissioner Andrade also provided an update on the board reappointments. At this point in the meeting a quorum was established and the board proceeded to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Andrade asked for a motion to approve. Daniel H. motioned to approve the minutes. Daniel G. seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Unit Reports

Adjudication: JoAnn reported that CCHR has 164 new cases this year and 196 cases have been closed. Of the new cases, 49 are employment cases, 54 are housing cases, and 50 are public accommodation cases. There are currently 25 cases in the hearing stage. There may be two cases for review at the December board meeting, unless they settle. The Adjudication Unit is also working on updating its subject matter index, a tool used to research the case log. They are also working with Alex to update marketing materials for criminal history cases.

Kristen reported on the outreach activities. CCHR participated in the following events: BACP event, Mexican Consul General's Office Labor Week, budget engagement events, MOPD Know Your Rights events, the CHA Owners Symposium, and DFSS events.

Inter Group Relations: Daniel S. gave an overview of the Hate Crimes/Hate Incidents Report which was mandated by the amended Hate Crime Ordinance. CCHR was required to provide findings and recommendations. Hate crimes are trending up both nationally and in Chicago. One of the solutions highlighted is to pass Ald. Knudsen's proposed amendment to the Hate Crimes ordinance which addresses hate littering. Other recommendations include working with CPS, working with 311 and the treatment not trauma team, and optimizing the CPD civil rights unit. The Inter Group Relations team has been developing a workplan for the Hate Crimes Reporting Pilot Project while the DOJ grant approves the CCHR budget. They are looking at having a soft launch at the beginning of the year.

Advisory Council Reports

Women: Jennifer provided a report. There were some mayoral staffing changes and promotions. The council is changing its name to Advisory Council for Women and Gender Equality.

New Americans: Karina provided an update on the migrant crisis. There were 47,100 migrants bused to Chicago. The number has dropped. There are currently 5,400 individuals in shelters. The Council is involved in the Day of Dignity event which will feature job search assistance and a resource fair. Karina invited Commissioner Andrade to the next meeting of the Advisory Council on New Americans.

LGBTQ+: Jin was not able to attend the meeting, but he sent a brief report. Commissioner Andrade shared his report. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Council is establishing procedures for nominating new members. They have been working to re-establish a full time LGBTQ+ Affairs staff person. A funders information session was held on August 13 that brought together funders, community leaders, and advisory council members to get input on the role and responsibilities of the proposed staff person and to generate support from funders. They are working with the Department of Transportation to have two Pride crosswalks painted. One in Andersonville and another in the South Shore.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments:

There was a member of the public in attendance, Lakeesha Spears. Ms. Spears declined to make a comment.

Commissioner Andrade asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Takada moved and it was seconded by Karina Ayala Bermejo. All were in favor.