



MINUTES

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 14, 2024

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Nancy Andrade, Chair	Daniel R. Hernandez
Karina Ayala Bermejo	Jin Soo-Huh
Jamie Brown	Margaret Kulujian
Marta Cerda	Michael Takada
Jennifer Eleazar	Kim Waller
Daniel Goldwin	

Staff Present:

Maria Balderas	Daniel Serrano
Marisol Gallegos	
Kristen Lee	

Call to Order

A quorum of board of commissioners was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Andrade presented the minutes of the December 14, 2023. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Daniel Hernandez motioned, and it was seconded by Mike Takada. All were in favor.

Adjudication Review Committee: Case 20-H-63 Evans vs Pasieka, Attorney Fee Petition

Kristen presented the case. Complainant sought total fees in the amount of \$27,599.75, based on a claim of 116.07 hours expended by two attorneys, Alexander Hartz and Julie Pautsch; and two paralegals, John Robertson and Emily Williams. The Respondent filed his Objections, arguing that Complainant's Fee Petition was untimely, the amount of fees sought was disproportionate to the damages award, and a number of individual entries were excessive or duplicative, billed under the wrong rates, or were otherwise objectionable.

The total initial amount of attorney fees (with the Hearing Officer's adjustment) is \$26,068.65, less the \$4,519.75 in deductions, totaling \$21,555.15. The total adjusted hours are 112.62, from the original 116.07 hours sought in the Fee Petition, reduced due to mathematical errors, and the increase in Attorney Hartz's fees, again due to re-calculation. The Hearing Officer recommends a deduction of 19.80 hours, or \$4,513.50 in fees, from the initial adjusted fees of \$26,068.65, for a total \$21,555.15, as the reasonable fees due to Complainant.

Commissioner Andrade asked for a motion to accept the hearing officer's recommendation. Daniel Hernandez moved. It was seconded by Daniel Goldwin. All were in favor.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Andrade announced that CCHR is in the process of hiring a Project Coordinator to work in the IGR unit and a Public Relations Representative. Board members will receive information on both positions. CCHR is also going to hire two summer interns. Commissioner Andrade reviewed board appointments. On July 1, 2024,

eleven board members will need to be appointed or re-appointed. She will send board members information on board appointment cycling. She also gave an update on DNC preparations. Commissioner Andrade announced the passing of former CCHR Commissioner, Clarence Wood.

Unit Reports

Adjudication: Kristen reported that CCHR is hosting a Fair Housing Month Webinar: Know Your Housing Rights and Responsibilities on April 30. CCHR is partnering with the Department of Housing, Legal Aid Chicago, and LUCHA. The flyer and registration link were shared on social media. The flier will be sent to board members. CCHR is partnering with MOPD and DFSS to conduct quarterly presentations and pop-up intake sessions at their field office.

Intergroup Relations Unit: Daniel Serrano reported CCHR continues its outreach in the migrant shelters by presenting Know Your Rights and anti-bullying workshops. The IGR team works in collaboration with Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). Daniel noted the IHR team continues to work with aldermen and the community in addressing an increase in community tension cases and hate crime incidents. Work on implementing the Hate Crimes Pilot Project and DOJ grant continues. New fliers explaining the difference between hate crimes and hate incidents are being distributed and have been translated into multiple languages.

Advisory Councils

New Americans: Karina said the Council is working on work permits and workforce development initiatives for the migrant community.

Women's Council: Jennifer said the Council was not able to vote on the name change of the Council. The Council is working on the Women's History Month event and will send an invitation to the board members.

LGBTQ+ Council: Jin-Soo said the Council is working on how to assist the LGBTQ migrants. They are working on a housing fair and gearing up for Pride month activities. They are also working on raising funds for an LGBTQ liaison position.

Equity Council: Esther was not present, so Commissioner Andrade read her report: The Equity Council discussed the search process for the new Chief Equity Officer. Two candidates were submitted to the Mayor's Office. The Council discussed some of the equity priorities for the administration, including 'budget equity' and the unfolding work the administration is undertaking to ensure department heads are considering how they are addressing the various components of an equity approach (budget, hiring, contracts, etc.)

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion to adjourn was duly made by Karina and was seconded by Daniel, and unanimously adopted. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.