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CCHR, A Closer Look

February 15, 2022

WELCOME



Nancy Andrade, Chair and Commissioner

Welcome to this edition of *CCHR, A Closer Look*. As we celebrate Black History Month, we wanted to briefly highlight a few vignettes of Chicago's unique black history through the lens of the CCHR. We would also like to update you on some of our recent activities and introduce you to our new staff and board members.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Please continue to stay safe, wear your masks, and remember, vaccines save lives!

CCHR MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY



The Red Summer of 1919 and the Creation of the Commission

The Chicago Commission on Race Relations, the precursor to the Commission on Human Relations, was established as a response to race riots, better known as the Red Summer of 1919. On Sunday, July 27, 1919, thousands of Chicagoans sought relief from the brutal heat on the shores of Lake Michigan. Among them was Eugene Williams, a seventeen-year-old African American. When he and his friends inadvertently drifted across an invisible line that divided the waters by race, a group of whites, insulted by such an act, began throwing stones at them, one of which struck Williams, causing him to drown. In the racial powder keg that was Chicago, his murder was the spark that ignited it during what became the Red Summer of 1919. The Commission would later be regarded as the “granddaddy of Human Relations Commissions” in the United States.



Albert Raby, CCHR Executive Director 1985-1988

Albert “Al” Raby was a civil rights organizer in Chicago during the 1960s. He founded the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations which was instrumental in bringing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Chicago in 1966 to demonstrate for civil rights (pictured above). In 1983, Raby served as Harold Washington’s campaign manager for his successful run for mayor. In 1985 Mayor Washington appointed Raby as the Executive Director of the Commission on Human Relations.

DuSable Day

In 2006, by city ordinance, John Baptiste

Point DuSable was officially recognized as the founder of the City of Chicago. The advocacy and education efforts to bring this to bear took years of hard work by a coalition of community organizations led by the Friends of DuSable and the behind the scenes work of the CCHR Advisory Council on African Affairs. DuSable Day is now celebrated annually in conjunction the city's birthday on March 4.



CAIR CONDUCTS BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR CCHR

Recently, the CCHR staff participated in a very informative and engaging online Bystander Intervention training. The session was conducted by CAIR-Chicago Deputy Director & Counsel Sufyan Sohel and Communications Coordinator Saadia Perraiz. The training was developed by CAIR-Chicago, Advancing Justice-Chicago and Hollaback! Through this presentation, CCHR staff:

- learned about the types of disrespect and dangers that Asians, Asian-Americans, and Muslims are currently facing and throughout history — from microaggressions to violence.
- understands what to look for in scenarios and the positive impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and communities.
- talked through five strategies (5Ds) for intervention and how to prioritize our own safety while intervening.
- practiced using the 5Ds so that we are confident intervening the next time we witness Islamophobic, Anti-Asian harassment, or other types of hate.

Our staff really enjoyed the training, and highly recommend it for your group or organization. For more information, or to schedule a training, email antihate@advancingjustice-chicago.org.

CHICAGO'S BLUEPRINT FOR FAIR HOUSING



For the past two years, the CCHR, Mayor’s Policy Team, Department of Housing, CHA, and other city partners, and Enterprise Partners, the lead consultant worked together to create the *Chicago Blueprint for Fair Housing*. The report serves as the city’s five-year assessment of fair housing examining such issues as discrimination, segregation, gentrification, affordability, and accessibility. More importantly, the *Blueprint* provides recommended action steps to address these important issues that impact the quality of life for all Chicagoans, particularly the city’s most vulnerable.

Another exciting aspect of the report was the community engagement process which brought together 20 community stakeholders, including members of fair housing organizations to work with the city on this initiative. Community engagement will continue to be critical as we move towards the implementation phase. We thank all our partners for their support, guidance, and positive energy in creating this dynamic living document which will make our city even greater. The final report including an executive summary are available at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/blueprint-for-fair-housing/home.html>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CCHR is happy to announce the appointment of our new slate of board members to the **Commission on Human Relations, Board of Commissioners:**
Nancy Andrade, Chair

Darlene G. Attiah
Jamie E. Brown

Ahmad R. Jitan
Ray J. Koenig, III*

Marta Cerda
Thomas Choi
Daniel G. Goldwin
Rey B. Gonzalez
Daniel R. Hernandez

Margaret A. Kujulian
Edward Peecher
Michael D. Takada
Kim L. Waller

Advisory Council Representatives

Karina Ayala Bermejo, New Americans
Kim Fountain, Women
Ester Nieves, Equity
Terrell Odom, Veterans
Butch Trusty, LGBTQ+

*Denotes a continuing member

WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF!

The CCHR is also happy to announce the latest addition to our staff, **James (Jimmy) Thomas**. Jimmy is a Human Relations Investigator II and will be responsible for investigating employment discrimination complaints. Glad to have you as part of the team Jimmy!



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Meetings:

April 14, 2022

May 12, 2022

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

via Zoom

*Meeting times are subject to change.
Please call (312) 744-4404 for more information.

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Housing: (312) 744-5879

Public Accommodation: (312) 744-5879

Credit: (312) 744-5879

Hate Crimes

(312) 744-4874

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