

MINUTES

**CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR)
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
August 9, 2018**

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Mona Noriega, *Chair*
Joanna Borowiec
Naderh Elrabadi
Simon Gordon

Emanuel Johnson, II
Stephanie Kanter
Ray Koenig, III
Leisa Mosley

David Mussatt
Michelle Shang

Staff Present:

Iris Archilla
Kenneth Gunn

Matthew Lango
JoAnn Newsome

Kelly Saulsberry
Karen Wallace

Call to Order

Mona Noriega called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and Iris Archilla 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

Mona Noriega presented to the board the minutes of the July 2018 board meeting for approval, whereupon motion was duly made by Leisa Mosley to adopt as written, seconded by Joanna Borowiec and unanimously adopted. The minutes were approved as presented.

A motion to move to Executive Session was duly made by Ray Koenig, seconded by Stephanie Kanter and unanimously adopted.

Adjudication Review Committee Report

Russell v Chicago Transit Authority, CCHR No 16-P-49

David Mussatt provided a summary of this public accommodation discrimination case. He stated the Hearing Officer recommended the following relief:

- Damages in the amount of \$10,000 to the Complainant
- Injunctive relief in the form of an alert to all drivers that a specific request is not required from passengers to deploy the lift
- Interest on the damages
- A fine of \$100.00 to the Commission

The Adjudication Review Panel accepted the Hearing Officer's recommendation. Ray Koenig and Stephanie Kanter made a motion to accept the Adjudication Review Panel's recommendation and recommended reducing the damages of \$10,000 to \$5,500 while including language regarding sovereign immunity; it was seconded by Joanna Borowiec and unanimously adopted.

A motion to end the Executive Session was duly made by Leisa Mosley, seconded by Joanna Borowiec and unanimously adopted.

2018 & 2019 Fair Housing Testing and Education

JoAnn Newsome provided an overview of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's (CLCCRUL) fair housing testing project, education and outreach. Six communities were tested for fair housing discrimination; Jefferson Park, Hyde Park, Bridgeport, Near Northside, Mt. Greenwood and Clearing. The CLCCRUL found there is source of income discrimination, but primarily against African American housing choice voucher holders. Following the testing project, they conducted training and were able to produce a report.

Joann stated this is the second year we are funding a grant for this project. This year, we received proposals from Northside Community Resource Center as well as Roosevelt University in conjunction with John Marshall Law School. Their proposals have been evaluated and the selected agency will be finalized in November when the budget is passed.

Old Business

Stephanie Kanter provided an update on the newer developments that were built with inaccessible commercial units which she mentioned at the last board meeting. She hasn't had the chance to drive through the area but did conduct a Google Earth and Google Maps search to revisit some of the places she had previously mentioned. Stephanie forwarded a list of addresses as well as photos to Mona and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) to see if the buildings had their plans run past MOPD. However, it appears not all new construction plans are being presented to MOPD. Mona stated that we will allow the MOPD to conduct their investigation first and look forward to seeing what comes of this situation.

Commissioner's Report

Mona Noriega asked Emanuel Johnson to report on the discussion we had with Ben Austen, Author of "High Risers: Cabrini Green and the Fate of American Public Housing". Emanuel mentioned it was a great discussion about Cabrini Green's history and living in public housing. He learned a lot about housing policy, in general. He feels the author was very respectful of all the individual stories he wrote about in his book.

Mona asked Ken to provide an update on our hiring status. Ken stated we are in the process of posting a Human Relations Specialist II position from August 14-28. This person will be providing workshops and mediating community tensions. We are encouraging people who speak other languages (i.e. Arabic, Polish, Hindi, and Mandarin) to apply. The interviews for the Administrative Services Officer II position have concluded. A recommendation for hire has been submitted and it should be made official shortly. Matthew, JoAnn and Karen are currently conducting interviews for the Human Relations Investigator II position. We are very excited to be able to fill these vacancies.

Mona mentioned that she sent the Board information on the public comment period regarding the new Consent Decree. It is in response to the Department of Justice's (DOJ) recommendations and criticism of the City of Chicago's training. Many of the recommendations the DOJ felt the City of Chicago could undertake are not included in the proposed Consent Decree. There is a short window to comment. She encouraged the Board to read it and make comments or suggestions.

Mona stated there was a news report of a young African American person that was beaten because of her sexual orientation and the police did not conduct an investigation. We talked to the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and found that there were three incidents involving this young lady. At no time in any of these three incidents was sexual orientation ever identified as an issue. That is not to say that it wasn't mentioned. It just wasn't reflected in any of the police reports, therefore, they were never escalated to the CPD Civil Rights Unit. This is where training comes in handy. If the responding officers had any inkling that perhaps sexual orientation was an issue, then they might have made inquiries to verify that fact and include it in the report.

Mona stated that we convened the Hate Crime Coalition and discussed flyers that have been distributed in Mt. Greenwood and Tinley Park. At that meeting, an Anti-Defamation League representative mentioned there has

been an increase in flyer distributions on school campuses as well. We are working with various agencies to figure out ways to address this issue.

Next Meeting

December 13, 2018, at 3:30 p.m., CCHR Boardroom

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion to adjourn was duly made by Joanna Borowiec, seconded by Leisa Mosley and unanimously adopted at 4:37 p.m.