

# MINUTES

## CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS (CCHR) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING February 13, 2020

### Attendance

#### Commissioners Present:

Mona Noriega, *Chair*  
Joanna Borowiec  
Ryan Dunigan  
Naderh Elrabadi

Simon Gordon  
Rochelle Grimbau  
Emanuel Johnson, II  
Stephanie Kanter

Ray Koenig, III  
Nabeela Rasheed  
Julio Rodriguez  
Michelle Shang

#### Staff Present:

Kenneth Gunn

Gloria Vu

Karen Wallace

### Call to Order

Mona Noriega called the meeting to order at 3:40 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

Commissioner, Mona Noriega presented to the board the minutes of the July 2019 board meeting for approval, where upon motion was duly made by Julio Rodriguez 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, III, seconded by Stephanie Kanter and unanimously adopted.

### Case for Review

#### *Virella v Target Corporation, CCHR No 17-P-50*

Ray Koenig, III provided a summary of the public accommodation case based on disability. The Hearing Officer recommended the case to be dismissed with prejudice.

The Adjudication Review Panel accepted the Hearing Officer's recommendation. Ray Koenig, III made a motion to accept the Adjudication Review Panel's recommendation; it was seconded by Joanna Borowiec and unanimously adopted.

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

### Status Updates

#### New Advisory Councils

Commissioner Noriega introduced Candace Moore, the new Chief Equity Officer, who provided an update on the New Advisory Councils. Currently, there is an open application to fill vacancies in all of the community advisory councils. New or old, residents are all encouraged to apply. Members of the Advisory Council will serve to support the Mayor's office, along with the assistance of Candace's staff, to engage target populations to advise and create solutions to meet the needs of its communities. Members will meet regularly to evaluate current policies and programs to assess improvements. The last day to submit applications will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

## **Pending Legislation**

### Just Housing Ordinance

First Deputy, Kenneth Gunn provided an overview of the Just Housing ordinance. The Just Housing Ordinance is an ordinance set in place to help provide ex-offenders to find housing. There has been testimonies from the county that once ex-offenders are released and fortunate enough to find a job, they get turned away from landlords because they have a criminal background. The CCHR is presently working with the Law Department to deal with the city's ordinance which will be implemented within the Fair Housing Ordinance. There will be a few exceptions set into place based on those who have committed sex crimes and of that matter. The county passed the ordinance last year and the rules were made effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. At this time, the city will review the ordinance and there will be decision made soon. Updates to follow.

### Amendment regarding Staff Filed complaints

The CCHR has had a few issues over the years, where a staff member or family member would want to file a complaint at the CCHR office based on a situation that they have encountered. Over time, this has been problematic and the CCHR has been working with the Mayor's office and the Law Department to input a rule in the ordinance to prohibit staff or family members from filing discriminatory cases with the CCHR. Further updates to follow.

## **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Mona Noriega announced her retirement from the Commission on Human Relations after nine years of serving. Commissioner Noriega expressed her appreciation and gratitude to be able to serve the people of Chicago and thanked the Board Members for their time and effort to accept and serve on the Board. Her last day will be February 28, 2020.

## **Next Meeting**

March 12, 2019, 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 Nabeela Rasheed and seconded by Emanuel Johnson, II and unanimously adopted at 4:48 p.m.