

**Minutes of the Cook County  
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session  
November 13, 2025 at 10:00 am**

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Location: 69 W Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602  
22<sup>nd</sup> floor, Conference Room A

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, Amber Smock, and Michael Lapinski and DHRE Staff.

**Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.

***Open Session***

**A. Call to Order**

- Chair Sohel called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**B. Statements by the General Public**

- W. Luper submitted an online comment regarding their recently closed complaint.
- D. Voz submitted an online comment requesting the opportunity to speak with the Commission regarding recommended changes to the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance.

**C. Agenda Approval**

- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Shobana Verma and seconded by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, Amber Smock, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.

**D. Approval of the October 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Open Minutes**

- A motion to approve the October 15, 2025 regular meeting open minutes was made by Commissioner Shobana Verma and seconded by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.
  - **Abstain:** Commissioner Amber Smock

**E. Commissioners' Updates**

- No Commissioner updates.

**F. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule was made by Commissioner Hedy Ratner and seconded by Commissioner Michael Lapinski. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, Amber Smock, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.

#### **G. Director's Report**

- Director King provided updates on FY25 Q4 with two-thirds of the quarter complete. 209 active cases. 192 inquiries so far this quarter, 53 new cases filed and 53 closed cases. 6 cases settled with no known settlement amounts.
- Policy: Online complaints dashboard has been published to the Commission on Human rights Reports and Guidance Documents page. A Fair Housing Resource kit will be shared with 121 community organizations.
- Outreach: One of the Outreach and Training coordinators provided updates on events and trainings attended to continue departmental efforts to spread awareness of Cook County Human Rights and Ethics ordinances and protections. Commissioners were invited to DHRE's first Human Rights Day event on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the National Public Housing Museum. The Human Rights newsletter has increased to 2,409 subscribers.

#### **H. 2025 JHA Annual Report – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve the 2025 JHA Evaluation and Report was made by Commissioner Hedy Ratner and seconded by Commissioner Michael Lapinski. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, Amber Smock, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.

#### **I. Investigation Extension Request – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve Investigation Extension Request for Case Nos. 2023CS004, 2023CS005, 2024PA006, 2024H018, 2024PL00250, 2024JHA00254, 2025H00392, 2025E00396, 2024PL00232, 2024PL00241, 2024PA007, 2025PL00399, 2025PL00417, 2025PL00418, 2025PL00410, 2025JHA00428, 2024PL00223 was made by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and seconded by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma. The motion was carried by the following vote roll-call vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, Amber Smock, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.

#### ***Closed Session***

- A motion to move into the Executive Session for discussions as identified in the agenda was made by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma and seconded by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and carried out by unanimous voice vote at 11:01 a.m.

***Open Session***

- At 11:32 a.m. the Commission reconvened to Open Session.

**N. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any**

**a. October 15, 2025 Regular Closed Meeting Minutes – Commission Vote**

- A motion to approve the October 15, 2025, 2025, Regular Closed Meeting Minutes was made by Commissioner Hedy Ratner and seconded by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.
  - **Abstain:** Commissioner Amber Smock

**b. Motion to Reconsider 2025E00577 – Commission Vote**

- A motion to deny the request for reconsideration in 2025E00577 was made by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and seconded by Commissioner Charles Isaacs. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, Amber Smock, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.

**c. Motion to Enjoin Complainant, CCCHR Pro. R. 490.260 – Commission Vote**

- A motion to enjoin the complaints was made by Commissioner Michael Lapinski and seconded by Commissioner Charles Isaacs. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Commissioners Hedy Ratner, Pushkar Sharma, Charles Isaacs, Shobana Verma, Amber Smock, and Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Absent:** Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Jack Block.

**O. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Sufyan Sohel and seconded by Commissioner Pushkar Sharma and carried by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Commission staff.