

**Minutes of the Cook County  
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session  
July 23, 2024, at 10:00 am**

=====  
Location: 69 W Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room D

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Chair Sufyan Sohel, Vice Chair Gia Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski, Amber Smock (Quorum of Commissioners physically present voted to allow to attend virtually due to employment exception), DHRE Staff

**Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Dr. Simon Griffin

***Open Session***

**A. Call to Order**

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

**B. Motion to allow Commissioners Amber Smock to attend virtually due to the employment exception of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.**

- **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
- **Nays:** None.
- **Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Dr. Simone Griffin

**C. Statements by the General Public**

- No statements by the general public.

**D. Agenda Approval – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve the agenda was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski, Amber Smock
  - **Nays:** None.
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Dr. Simone Griffin

**E. Approval of the April 25, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Minutes – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve the April 25, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Minutes was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski, Amber Smock
  - **Nays:** None.
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Dr. Simone Griffin

**F. Commissioners' Updates**

- Introduction of New Commissioner – Dr. Simone Griffin

**G. Chair and Vice Chair Election (Cook County Code 42-34(a)(4)) – Commission Vote**

**i. Chair Candidate(s)**

**a. Sufyan Sohel**

**ii. Vice Chair Candidate(s)**

**a. Gia Orr**

- A motion to elect Sufyan Sohel as Chair and Gia Orr as Vice chair was made and carried by unanimous voice vote.

**H. 2023 Human Rights Annual Report – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve 2023 Human Rights Annual Report was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski, Amber Smock
  - **Nays:** None.
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Dr. Simone Griffin

**I. Proposed IAOHRA Resolution – Commission Review and Vote**

- A motion to approve 2023 Human Rights Annual Report was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski, Amber Smock
  - **Nays:** None.
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Dr. Simone Griffin

**J. Director's Report**

- Data being reported is for a portion of the third quarter as we are still in the third quarter.
- The number of intakes on track to increase from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.
- 8 new cases have been filed so far in the third quarter.
- 8 cases closed in June.
- \$8,500 Settlement amounts disclosed to the Commission.
- **Policy:** Department Director and Policy analyst facilitated 5 Paid Leave Town Halls for suburban Park and School Districts. Commission staff would like to continue the discussion on potentially clarifying in the Human Rights Ordinance Procedural rules the circumstances during which a Respondent would not be served when a complaint is dismissed for procedural defects. Plan to provide a redline proposal at the next meeting.
- **Outreach:** Update on events and training attended to continue departmental efforts to spread awareness of Cook County Human Rights and Ethics ordinances and protections. Specifically training on Fair Housing, the Just Housing Amendment, and worker protections. Request

for Human Rights Commissioners to attend outreach events to amplify protections.

**K. Investigation Extension Request**

- A motion to approve 6 Investigation Extension Requests was made and carried by unanimous voice vote.

***Closed Session***

- A motion to move into Executive Session for discussions as identified in the agenda was made and carried by unanimous voice vote at 10:46 am.

***Open Session***

- At 10:52 am the Board reconvened to Open Session.

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

**I. Approval of the April 25, 2024, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes**

- A motion to approve the April 25, 2024, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None.
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Amber Smock, Dr. Simone Griffin

**II. Denial of Request for Reconsideration – 2022E023**

- A motion to approve the denial of the Request for Reconsideration for matter 2022E023 was made and carried by the following vote:
  - **Ayes:** Chair Sohel, Vice Chair Orr, Commissioners Rev. Richard Tolliver, Michael Lapinski
  - **Nays:** None.
  - **Absent:** Commissioner Jack Block, Amber Smock, Dr. Simone Griffin

**O. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made and carried by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.

Minutes submitted by Board staff.