

Minutes of the Cook County  
Commission on Human Rights – Open Session  
April 15, 2021

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Attendance:

Present: Chairperson K. Gunn; Vice-Chairperson K. Ayala-Bermejo, Commissioners J. Block, C. Eatherton, A. Hamada, G. Orr, A. Smock, H. Ratner

Absent: Commissioners E. Clarke-Bey, C. E. Harris II

Staff: Director S. Baker, Deputy Director G. Smith, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Administrative Analyst K. Johns.

**I. Open Session**

**A. Call to Order**

Chairperson Gunn called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**B. Statements by the General Public**

Maria Moon with the Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance recommended that the application in the JHA facts for applicants and housing seekers should not include questions and check boxes about prior justice involvement. She also suggested JHA documents for applicants and landlords be available in Spanish and other languages. Jimmy Thomas with Northwest Side Community Development Corporation suggested making the complaint forms more simplistic and easier to fill out and making them more centered on website. He also suggested making a clear difference between complaint form and compliant information sheet. Finally, he recommended expanding outreach through the assessors' office to educate people who own two units or more. Charlie Isaacs with Uptown Peoples Law People's Law Center suggested simplifying and updating current database.

**C. Agenda Approval**

The agenda was approved and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**D. Approval of the February 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Open Minutes**

The meeting minutes to the February 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**E. Summary of the Cook County Residential Tenant Landlord Ordinance**

Director S. Baker reported that the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed the Residential Tenant Landlord Ordinance. She indicated that the Commission on Human Rights is not administering or enforcing the ordinance and that the Cook County Sheriff's Office will enforce the ordinance. Director S. Baker explained that the Commission on

Human Rights role is to post the ordinance on its website and translate the ordinance into other languages.

**F. Director's Report**

Director S. Baker discussed that her goal is to be transparent as possible and to provide the commission and public all cases and complaints received. She mentioned outreach efforts included bringing in an Outreach and Training Coordinator; met with the Just Housing Alliance to discuss what can and cannot be done; in discussion regarding updating websites to make more user-friendly; will be taking a closer look at streamlining the complaint process; and developing a strong outreach program to educate the public on earned sick leave and minimum wage.

**II. Executive Session**

At 10:56 a.m., the Board adjourned into Executive Session

**III. Open Session II**

At 11:01 a.m., the Board convened back into Open Session

- A.** Approval of the December 8, 2020 and February 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Closed Minutes  
The meeting minutes to the December 8, 2020 and February 11, 2020<sup>1</sup> regular meeting closed minutes were approved and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

By a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.