

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
June 5, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle Street, Suite N-1000
Chicago, Illinois 60601

and

Jefferson Terrace
300 West Jefferson Street, Suite 108
Springfield, Illinois 62702

MINUTES

PRESENT

Commissioners:

Demoya R. Gordon, Vice Chair
Jacqueline Y. Collins
Elizabeth A. Coulson
Janice M. Glenn
Stephen A. Kouri II

Staff:

Tracey B. Fleming, Executive Director
Claudia P. Ortega, Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer
Brian Weinthal, Chief Administrative Law Judge
David R. Larson, General Counsel
Bonnie Kim, Deputy General Counsel
Adrian J. Atwater, Assistant General Counsel
Emily Curosh, Assistant General Counsel
Christine Welninski, Administrative Assistant I
LaNade Bridges, Private Secretary
Jonathon Ferguson, Edward Coles Fellow
Patience McHenry, Edward Coles Fellow
Navya Nagubadi, Edward Coles Fellow

Members of the Public:

Oral Bennett
Brent Harzman
David Rothal
James Shovlin
Joanna Szuba
Michael Vernon

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission was called to order on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Gordon.

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II. Roll Call

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.*, it was determined that:

Vice Chair Gordon and Commissioners Collins, Coulson, Glenn, and Kouri were physically present at the meeting.

III. Minutes – April 10, 2024

The Commissioners adopted the minutes of the April 10, 2024 meeting as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Glenn; seconded by Commissioner Coulson. Motion carried 5-0-0.

IV. Chair's Report

Vice Chair Gordon expressed her gratitude to former Chair Mona Noriega for her service and dedication to the people of Illinois. Vice Chair Gordon also thanked the staff for their work and welcomed the new Edward Coles Fellows.

V. Staff Reports

A. Tracey B. Fleming, Executive Director

Executive Director Fleming submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Executive Director Fleming responded to questions about legislation that recently passed the Illinois General Assembly, referrals to external legal aid organizations, and a proposed change to extend the deadline for filing charges with the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

B. Claudia P. Ortega, Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer

Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer Ortega submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer Ortega provided an update on hiring efforts and available funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year.

C. Brian Weinthal, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal provided updated case statistics for the Administrative Law Section and announced upcoming interviews for two Administrative Law Judge positions in the Springfield office. Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal also recounted a recent judicial settlement conference that enlisted the services of two American Sign Language interpreters to ensure meaningful participation by a fully deaf complainant.

D. David R. Larson, General Counsel

General Counsel Larson submitted a written report prior to the meeting. General Counsel Larson introduced the new Edward Coles Fellows and responded to questions on recent Freedom of Information Act requests and the number of Commission cases pending in the Illinois Appellate Court.

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VI. New Business

None.

VII. Unfinished Business

None.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Collins; seconded by Commissioner Coulson. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Larson
General Counsel
Illinois Human Rights Commission