

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
February 5, 2025
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:

Selma C. D'Souza, Chair
Demoya R. Gordon, Vice Chair
Jacqueline Y. Collins
Elizabeth A. Coulson
Janice M. Glenn
Stephen A. Kouri II
Howard A. Rosenblum (via Webex)

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
Jaz Park, Assistant General Counsel
Bricia Herrera, Administrative Assistant I
Christine Welninski, Administrative Assistant I
Cecilia Torres, Office Coordinator
Michelle Crayton, Private Secretary

Members of the Public:

Barbara Barreno-Paschall	David Rothal
Oral Bennett	Deena Sanceda
Valarie Hemmingway	Michael Vernon
Ingolf Karst	Maura Wallenius
Irma Lopez	Audrey Walling
Armando Mojica	Shanika Webb
Tomas Ramirez	

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission was called to order on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. by Chair D'Souza.

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II. Roll Call

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

Chair D'Souza, Vice Chair Gordon, and Commissioners Collins, Coulson, Glenn, and Kouri were physically present at the meeting. Commissioner Rosenblum was permitted to remotely attend via Webex subject to the motion of those Commissioners physically present. Motion made by Vice Chair Gordon; seconded by Commissioner Glenn. Motion carried 6-0-0

III. Minutes – December 4, 2024

The Commissioners adopted the minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Coulson; seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried 7-0-0.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair D'Souza announced Commissioner Coulson's retirement later in the month and expressed her gratitude to Commissioner Coulson for her long history of service and dedication to the people of Illinois. Chair D'Souza also discussed a recent outreach event at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and mentioned that Governor Pritzker will deliver the 2025 State of the State and FY26 Budget Address on February 19, 2025.

V. Staff Reports

A. Tracey B. Fleming, Executive Director

Executive Director Fleming submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Executive Director Fleming extended best wishes to Commissioner Coulson on her retirement. Executive Director Fleming also addressed growth in the Commission's email marketing list and noted that the Commission will present at the Executive Ethics Commission's upcoming 2025 Half-Day Ethics Officer Conference.

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 discussed the current headcount and the number of remaining vacancies and provided an update on the total spend to date for Fiscal Year 2025. Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer Ortega also confirmed that the Governor's Office of Management and Budget tentatively approved the Commission's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026.

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 discussed that an Administrative Law Judge will preside over an upcoming public hearing in an

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official courtroom in the Circuit Court of Crawford County. Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal also advised that the Commission posted the job listing for the new Administrative Law Judge position.

D. David R. Larson, General Counsel

General Counsel Larson submitted a written report prior to the meeting. General Counsel Larson gave an update on the number of cases pending before the Commissioners, discussed the schedule for future “Lunch and Learn” continuing legal education presentations, and provided the notification schedule and deadlines for the 2025 Statement of Economic Interest.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

None.

VIII. Public Comments

Barbara Barreno-Paschall, Valarie Hemmingway, and Shanika Webb made public comments.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m. Motion made by Vice Chair Gordon; seconded by Commissioner Glenn. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Larson
General Counsel
Illinois Human Rights Commission