

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
August 6, 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
Janice M. Glenn
Stephen A. Kouri II
Mony Ruiz-Velasco
Gregory E. Vaci

Staff:

David R. Larson, Interim Executive Director and General Counsel
Claudia P. Ortega, Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer
Brian Weinthal, Chief Administrative Law Judge
Pamela Curran, Administrative Law Judge
Emily A. Fancher, Administrative Law Judge
Jennifer S. Nolen, Administrative Law Judge
Bonnie Kim, Deputy General Counsel
Adrian J. Atwater, Assistant General Counsel
Emily Curosh, Assistant General Counsel
Shantelle Baker, Administrative Assistant I
Bricia Herrera, Administrative Assistant I
Christine Welninski, Administrative Assistant I
Cecilia Torres, Office Coordinator

Members of the Public:

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|-------------------|-----------------|
| Chelsea Adams | David Rothal |
| Michelle Andre | Deena Sanceda |
| Brandon Curington | Charlie Smith |
| George F. | Barry Taylor |
| Deanne Medina | Michael Vernon |
| Armando Mojica | Maura Wallenius |
| Tomas Ramirez | Audrey Walling |
| Derek Randal | |

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission was called to order on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 9:01 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 and Commissioners Collins, Glenn, Kouri, Ruiz-Velasco, and Vaci were physically present at the meeting.

III. Minutes – June 4, 2025

The Commissioners adopted the minutes of the June 4, 2025 meeting as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Glenn; seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Vice Chair Gordon arrived and was added to the roll.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair D'Souza welcomed new Commissioner Momy Ruiz-Velasco. Chair D'Souza also announced the departure of Tracey Fleming as the Executive Director and noted that David Larson would serve as the Interim Executive Director. Finally, Chair D'Souza reported that she and several staff members participated in the Chicago Disability Pride Parade with the Department of Human Rights and that the Commission will again participate in Senior Day at the upcoming State Fair.

V. Staff Reports

A. David R. Larson, Interim Executive Director and General Counsel

Interim Executive Director and 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 and solicited topic and speaker ideas for future "Lunch and Learn" continuing legal education presentations. General Counsel Larson also provided an overview and responded to questions on the findings contained in the recently released Audit Report on the Compliance Examination of the Commission and Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission for the two years ended on June 30, 2023.

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 the total spend to date, available funds, and estimated budget lapse for Fiscal Year 2025. Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer Ortega also responded to questions about the data cleanup in the State's new human capital management system and an audit finding on internal controls over voucher processing.

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 announced that he will travel to Davenport, Iowa, to conduct a judicial settlement conference and invited the Commissioners to observe a judicial settlement conference in the future. Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal also responded to a question about the number of pending and resolved cases and reported an increase in complaints filed following the expiration of the investigation period.

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VI. Petition for Rehearing En Banc

- A. *IDHR and Saudia Carson vs. Lori Deanne Steele (Dagan), Bonnie Swigart, and iRentals, Inc.*
Charge No.: 2022SH0858 ALS No.: 24-0032

The Commissioners considered the Complainants' Petitions for Rehearing En Banc. Motion to grant the petitions for rehearing made by Commissioner Glenn; seconded by Commission Kouri. Motion failed 2-3-2. Consequently, the petitions were denied and a rehearing before the full Commission was declined. Additionally, the Commissioners considered the Illinois Attorney General's Motion for Leave to File Statement of Interest, Instantly. Motion to deny the motion as moot made by Commissioner Glenn; seconded by Commission Vaci. Motion carried 5-2-0.

VII. Unfinished Business

None.

VIII. New Business

- A. Proposed 2026 Commission Meeting Calendar

The Commissioners approved the proposed 2026 commission meeting calendar. Motion made by Commissioner Ruiz-Velasco; seconded by Commissioner Vaci. Motion carried 7-0-0.

IX. Public Comments

None.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Vaci; seconded by Vice Chair Gordon. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Larson
General Counsel
Illinois Human Rights Commission