

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
June 3, 2026
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 (via Webex)
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
Bonnie Kim, Deputy General Counsel
Emily Curosh, Assistant General Counsel
Jaz Park, Assistant General Counsel
Shantelle Baker, Administrative Assistant I
Christine Welninski, Administrative Assistant I
Michelle Crayton, Private Secretary
Cecilia Torres, Office Coordinator
Brenna Colihan, Edward Coles Fellow
Sara Schlecht, Edward Coles Fellow
Courtney Thomas, Edward Coles Fellow

Members of the Public:

Jerry Bauer
Oral Bennett
Tomas Ramirez
David Rothal
Teyahma
Michael Vernon
Audrey Walling
Nina Webster

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission was called to order on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 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, Kouri, Ruiz-Velasco, and Vaci were physically present at the meeting.

III. Minutes – April 8, 2026

The Commissioners adopted the minutes of the April 8, 2026 meeting as submitted by staff. Motion made by Vice Chair Gordon; seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried 6-0-0.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair D'Souza welcomed the Edward Coles Fellows to the meeting and recognized their interest in the Commission's work. Chair D'Souza also reported that the Illinois General Assembly passed HB0862, which redesignates the Commission as an independent commission under the Department of Human Rights and provides for the transfer of certain administrative functions of the Commission to the Department of Human Rights. In response to questions, General Counsel Larson discussed next steps for the implementation and the anticipated impact of the legislation on the Commission.

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 reviewed the number of cases pending before the Commissioners and highlighted an upcoming "Lunch and Learn" continuing legal education presentation. General Counsel Larson also reported that the Senate Executive Appointments Committee recommended "Do Consent" to Commissioner Ruiz-Velasco's appointment and that the Senate confirmed Commissioner Vaci's appointment.

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 available funds for the remainder of the fiscal year and confirmed that the General Assembly passed the Illinois State Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

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 introduced the Edward Coles Fellows, reported on the increase in new complaint filings, and noted that the Administrative Law Section recently released instructional videos addressing common issues faced by litigants appearing before the Administrative Law Judges.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

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VII. New Business

A. Commissioner Outreach

Chair D'Souza reported on plans with the Department of Human Rights for a "Human Rights Day" program later in the year. Chair D'Souza also thanked Commissioner Ruiz-Velasco for updating the Commission's outreach brochure for non-lawyers, presented two proposed versions, and discussed suggested revisions. Finally, Commissioner Ruiz-Velasco reported on several recent outreach events and her participation in the "Girls Lead" mentorship program through the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Ruiz-Velasco; seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Larson
General Counsel
Illinois Human Rights Commission