

MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 24, 2011

**Minneapolis City Hall - Room 333
350 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN**

6:07 PM:

6:09 PM: Call to Order/Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance:

Scott Flaherty, Lonnie Nichols, John Oberreuter, Michelle Monteiro, Marla Khan, Sonja Peterson, Michael McHugh, Cecilia Rodriguez-Melendez, Adosh Unni, Bernadette Casey, Emily J. Froehle, Jennifer Thompson, Patricia Nelson, Surya Rochel, Thomas Gallagher

City Staff: Velma Korbel, Monica Diaz; Michael Browne, Sherman Patterson, Frank Reed

Commissioners Absent: Joshua Williams, Andrew Hauer

Guests: Council Member Don Samuels, Mark Miller

Approval of Agenda: Moved Flaherty, Second Rodriguez-Melendez, **Motion Passed.**

Approval of November 15, 2010, Meeting Minutes: Moved Rodriguez-Melendez; Second Flaherty; Abstain Almen, **Motion Passed.**

Introduction of Commissioners: each Commissioner provides a self introduction

Election of Officers: All nominees ran unopposed, each was elected by 15 – 0 unanimous vote.

Chair – Scott Flaherty

Vice Chair – Michelle Monteiro

Secretary – Lonnie Nichols

Treasurer – Adosh Unni

Salutation by Council Member Don Samuels:

Thanks commissioners for their term of service on the Minneapolis Commission of Civil Rights and for their role to help provide a check and balance to the City Council. CM Samuels requests that as Commissioners we stay true to the calling for truth, objectivity, equality and justice.

Director's Report: Velma Korbel thanks Council Member Samuels for attending and his words to the Commission. CM Samuels intends to add Civil Rights to the name of our Home Committee, making it the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee.

Director Korbel emphasizes how important it is to take an oath to serve on the Civil Rights Commission, noting that as Commissioners we are not necessarily advocates for a cause(s) about our actions as we are now representatives of the City of Minneapolis.

Assistant Director's Report: Michael Browne provides the Commission with a 2010 Case Files report; 367 cases were closed with 160 cases being closed from September to December 31, 2010. The Civil Rights Department reports to Results Minneapolis in March and September annually. In 2010, 159 new cases opened, 367 closed, including 154 No Probable Cause and 132 Dismissals and 192 cases related EEOC. As of January 12, 2011, 200 cases are open.

Over the past twelve months, the backlog of cases has declined, and from September 9, 2010, to present from 216 to 112 by improving case screening and working very diligently to investigate complaints based on merit. The goal for 2011 is to have zero cases in the back log.

Liaison's Report: Civil Rights Department staff Monica Diaz describes her duties as preparing meeting materials, calendar postings, receiving cases and helping to schedule file reviews and hearing panels and processes payments. Everything is basically ready for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Award Ceremony on Friday, January 28, 2011, at 9:30 A.M. in City Hall.

Commission on Civil Rights Subcommittee Reports and discussion:

Contract Compliance Committee – will be tracking two major projects, Central Corridor LRT and Riverside Avenue Reconstruction

Public Relations and Education Committee – 2011 will provide an opportunity to regroup after declining participation in 2010.

Standards and Procedures Committee – May review committee structure of the Commission

League of MN Human Rights Commission: Since Louisa Hext is no longer on the Commission, there is an opportunity for a Minneapolis Commissioner to serve on the Minnesota Human Rights Commission. Contact Commissioner Peterson if interested.

Chair's Report by Commissioner Scott Flaherty

Commissioners are notified that there will be Commissioner's training for Continuing Education Credits in February, as well as Robert's Rules training upcoming. Subcommittee membership will be done at the February meeting.

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment at 7:45 P.M. **Moved** Peterson; Second Rodriguez-Melendez; **Motion Passed.**