

MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
Commission Meeting MINUTES
Monday, July 18, 2011
Minneapolis City Hall
350 South 5th Street – Room 241
Minneapolis, MN

6:05 PM, Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent: Patricia Nelson, Joshua Williams, Surya Rochel

City Staff:

Toni Newborn, Caroline Bachun, Johnny Burns, Monica Diaz

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Rodriguez-Melendez, Second Peterson, Approved.

Approval of June 20, 2011 MCCR minutes: Moved by Peterson, Second McHugh, Approved.

Civil Rights Department Reports:

Toni Newborn, Senior Investigator (SI) provides report on Probable Cause (PC), No Probable Cause (NPC) and Dismissals, indicating that as of July 15, 2011, there were 79 total case files pending resolution: 25 current PC cases under review by the Commission; 34 Dismissal and 12 NPC determinations, and; 21 cases in the backlog with only 2 exceeding 31 months under review. SI Newborn noted that the number of cases in the backlog was down to 21 from 216 in September 2010. Any case over 365 days old is deemed to be in the backlog.

SI Newborn informed the Commission that the existing EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) contract ends on September 22, 2011, and indicated a departmental goal to close out the remaining 21 cases in the backlog by the end of said contract.

Commission on Civil Rights Committee Reports

Contract Compliance - McHugh provides overview of pending transition from current DBE system to new DBE Contractor Certification system, indicating that there may be an initial drop in achievement statistics due to learning the new system and capturing fraudulent contractors.

Public Relations and Education: Sunday, August 7, 10:00-11:00 AM has been confirmed with KFAI radio as a live one hour show to discuss civil rights and the MCCR. The re-establishment of an Outstanding Achievement Award in Civil Rights will be discussed further with Department staff and Leadership in GLBT Rights and Same Sex Marriage has been proposed by PR&E as a current issue to recognize with the award.

Standards and Procedures: Next meeting is August 8, 2011, with primary agenda item a discussion on proposed guidelines for an appeals procedure for clientele involved in NPC and Dismissal case recommendations rendered by the Commission.

League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission: Next meeting is July 26 in New Ulm. Peterson will request that the statewide MLK essay topic be announced in August to allow more time for Minneapolis Schools to be notified. Peterson also requested other Commissioners to contact her if they had an interest to sit on the League.

Commission on Civil Rights Chair Person's Report, Flaherty reminds Commissioners they should plan ahead for 3 hour Commission meetings in September and October to allow for strategic planning sessions on: Long Range Planning for the Commission and how our actions can support goals of the Civil Rights Department, and; Individual-Commissioner goals on an annual and per term basis.

New Business: A Draft Resolution of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission in opposition to the 2012 ballot initiative passed by the state legislature for a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage in the state of Minnesota was distributed.

Motion: Table action on the Resolution to the August meeting, Moved Thompson, Second Froehle, Motion Passed.

Public Comment: None

Call for Adjournment at 6:59 PM: Moved McHugh; Second Thompson, Motion Passed.