

MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
Commission Meeting MINUTES
Monday, September 19, 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, Michael McHugh, Adosh Unni, Bernadette Casey, Sonja Peterson, Thomas Gallagher, Marla Khan, Cecelia Rodriguez-Melendez, Surya Rochel, Patricia Nelson.

Commissioners Absent: Emily J. Froehle, Jennifer Thompson, Joshua Williams, Scott Flaherty

City Staff: Velma Korbek, Michael Browne, Caroline Bachun, Johnny Burns, Sherman Patterson

Guests: Amelia Kaderabek, Branden Largent, Christine Smith

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

Approval, August 15, 2011 MCCR minutes: Moved Nelson, Second Rochel, Approved.

Civil Rights Department Reports:

Velma Korbek, Director of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department, said that she had requested a transcript of the proceedings from the September 13, 2011, public forum on Disparity in Employment/Unemployment hosted by the State of Minnesota Advisory Committee of the United States Civil Rights Commission. Director Korbek was a panel member of the forum; all 50 states and territory of Puerto Rico have a seat on the US Civil Rights Commission.

A flyer was distributed for a social hour and panel discussion titled: “United States of Immigrants?” at the Minneapolis Central Library on Monday, October 17, 2011, organized by the Minneapolis YWCA and sponsored by Cargill. Director Korbek will moderate the panel discussion and the keynote social hour speaker is Linda Chavez.

Moved Rodriguez-Melendez; Second McHugh, Hold the October 17, 2011, Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights monthly meeting at 5:00 PM at the Central Library in a meeting room To Be Announced. Department staff agreed to help secure a meeting room at the Library for the Commission meeting prior to the social hour and panel discussion.

There will be a luncheon event with a similar theme at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Tuesday, October 18. Linda Chavez will be the keynote speaker and Council

Member Elizabeth Glidden will be the final speaker. Contact Monica Diaz to be placed on a will call list for seat availability at the luncheon.

Commissioner Khan circulates a sign up list for the Domestic Abuse Project Luncheon which will also be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2011. For additional information on the DAP luncheon contact Commissioner Khan.

A flyer was distributed for an October 3, 2011, event at the Guthrie for One Minneapolis One Read (OMOR). Michelle Norris, National Public Radio host and author of "The Grace of Silence", will be present to read from her Memoir describing the experience of the Norrises, the first black family on the block in a South Minneapolis neighborhood.

Michael Browne, Assistant Director (AD) provides report on Probable Cause (PC), No Probable Cause (NPC) and Dismissals, indicating that as of September 15, 2011, there were 61 total case files pending resolution: 26 current cases under review by the Commission; one (1) PC, 11 Dismissal and 10 NPC determinations, and; 13 cases in the backlog with only four (4) exceeding 31 months under review. AD Browne noted that the number of cases in the backlog was down to 13 from 216 in September 2010. Any case over 365 days old is deemed to be in the backlog.

AD Browne reminded the Commission that the existing EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Contract) ends on September 22, 2011, and indicated a departmental goal to close out the remaining 13 cases in the backlog by the end of said contract. The EEOC goal was 254 cases and to date 257 cases have been submitted.

The ad hoc task force created by the Commission to research the impact that passage of a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage in the state of Minnesota may have on the City of Minneapolis postponed discussion given that Chair Flaherty was not in attendance. Commission discussion and action to pass and/or amend and pass the drafted resolution in opposition to said constitutional amendment remained tabled from August.

Commission on Civil Rights Committee Reports

Contract Compliance - McHugh said that staff Johnny Burns had sent a letter to the department's contractor list regarding the transition from the existing certification system for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) to the new DBE Contractor Certification system. Commissioner McHugh indicated that DBE may be challenged to get certified under the new system by the end of 2011. Staff Burns responded that he will likely see a big influx of registrations by DBE in October. Additional outreach efforts are planned.

Public Relations and Education: Commissioner Khan confirmed that the Martin Luther King, Jr. essay packets for Minneapolis schools had been assigned and distributed to Commissioners. Commissioners were asked to get them delivered within a week if it had not already been done. The re-establishment of a Community Service Award in Civil Rights was discussed and Commissioner Rochel is leading this task force. The annual Domestic Abuse Project Luncheon fundraiser will be on October 18, 2011.

Standards and Procedures: Did not meet, but still have goal to draft "Appeals Procedure Guidelines by end of 2011. S&P is also reviewing Mediator language.

League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission: Commissioner Peterson says that she will forward email announcements to staff Diaz for distribution. The announcements are from Project 515 and Outfront Minnesota on Community Action trainings related to the constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage in the state.

The Commission on Civil Rights Chair Person's Report was provided by Vice Chair Monteiro. VC Monteiro indicated that she would communicate with Chair Flaherty regarding combining strategic planning sessions originally proposed for September and October 2011 into a condensed two to three hour strategic planning session in November. Given new Commissioners are scheduled to be appointed and seated, the Long Range Planning for the Commission related to how our actions can support goals of the Civil Rights Department, and a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of MCCR activities may also be postponed to first quarter 2012.

New Business: None

Public Comment: Three college students, Amelia Kaderabek, Branden Largent, Christine Smith introduce themselves. One had questions about appealing the dismissal of a case. AD Browne said that he would follow up with the student about the appeal.

Adjournment at 7:11 PM: Moved Rodriguez-Melendez; Second Peterson, Passed.