



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING **APPROVED**

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, May 21, 2024
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers
Urbana City Building
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ann Panthen, Chair; Shalini Smith, Vice Chair; Peter Resnick; Vahagn Chiflikyan

COMMISSIONER AWAY: Greg Schroeder

ALSO PRESENT: Carla Boyd, Human Rights and Equity Officer; Tom Unzicker, Human Rights Specialist

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Ann Panthen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Recording Secretary took the roll. A quorum was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Panthen called for a change to the agenda to include an introduction of a new commissioner. Peter Resnick so moved. Shalini Smith seconded the motion. The motion to approve the updated agenda passed on a voice vote.

C. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSONER

Carla Boyd introduced Vahagn Chiflikyan to the commission, approved by the City Council at their meeting of April 22, 2024, who in turn introduced himself to the commissioners and public.

Mr. Chiflikyan shared that he has an background in Political Science and Sociology and has work experience in government in the United States and Armenia. He expressed gratitude for the trust and honor of the appointment, and his excitement and eagerness to join the group and get to work. He detailed his commitment to advocacy for an inclusive and diverse community, its well being and growth. He wants to contribute through the HRC to making the community an even better place to live, work and thrive.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 16, 2024

Ms. Panthen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Smith so moved. Mr. Chiflikyan seconded the motion. The commissioners approved the motion by a voice vote.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of Automatic EEO Certifications

Ms. Panthen listed two companies seeking EEO Certification that have 14 employees or fewer, and are therefore eligible for an automatic two-year certification. She asked for a motion to approve their certification. Mr. Resnick moved to approve certification for:

David B. Wesner Law, LLC
POLIHIRE Strategy Corp

Ms. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

2. Consideration of EEO Workforce Statistics

Ms. Panthen asked for a motion to approve certification of the four companies seeking certification that have larger staffs (15 or higher). Mr. Resnick moved to approve certification of the applicants as follows:

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.	1 year
Petry-Kuhne Company	1 year
Reliable Mechanical, LLC	1 year
Titan Industries, Inc.	2 years

Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was brief discussion indicating a desire to watch the staffing trends of the three companies recommended for one-Provisional Certification and reviewing the geographic location of Titan Industries. Following the discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

H. OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Boyd shared her monthly report. Highlights included:

- Status of complaints and referrals made
- Attended the Spring Midwest Leadership Institute, which she found to be particularly useful
- Working with the Community Relations Office of the City to schedule tabling opportunities
- Emailed "Know Your Rights" poster to over 500 to property managers in Urbana and Champaign
- Spanish and French translations of the "Know Your Rights" arrived
- Association meeting, which included a briefing from the Illinois Department of Human Rights
- Attend the Illinois Department of Human Rights meeting on basic fair housing virtually
- Attended a Mayoral event recognizing Urbana High School students who together contributed over 10,000 hours of community service this school year
- Attended a Minority Enrichment Program meeting at UHS discussing opportunities for collaboration
- Planning to attend the Southeast Urbana Neighborhood Association Meeting on May 30th
- The City has a Juneteenth Committee planning activities. Friday, June 14th: "Reverence Ceremony". Tuesday, June 18th: City Employees, Families, and Guests Lunch. Commissioners received an invitation to both events.

Commissioners' Follow Up:

- Ms. Panthen asked commissioners to consider signing up for a tabling event

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This Commission has four openings
2. Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at [6 p.m.]
3. Juneteenth Celebration Events
4. Jettie Rhodes Day: Saturday, June 22, 2024, 12 – 4 p.m., King Park. Tabling will occur.
Commissioners could sign up for all or a portion of a shift.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Ms. Panthen adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Unzicker
Recording Secretary