



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING **APPROVED**

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, May 20, 2025
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; Jerry Frye

COMMISSIONER ON PHONE: Vahagn Chiflikyan

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Charles Davidson

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 5:32 p.m. The Recording Secretary took the roll. A quorum was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Panthen asked for any additions to the agenda. There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 15, 2025

Ms. Panthen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Peter Resnick so moved. Shalini Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Receipt of automatic two-year EEO Certifications

Ms. Smith announced the names of five companies/vendors with 20 or fewer employees that qualified for automatic two-year EEO Certification this month:

- Complete Asphalt Services
- Law Enforcement Action Partnership
- Jorge Pena
- Oak Brothers Tree Care & Removal LLC
- Hermes Equipment

2. Consideration of EEO Workforce Statistics

Ms. Panthen announced the agenda item. Then Ms. Smith announced the list of applications, and the length of certification recommended by the Human Rights and Equity Officer as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Corrective Asphalt Materials, LLC | 2 years |
| • Fuhrmann Engineering, Inc. | 2 years |
| • Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. | 2 years |
| • National Testing Network, Inc. | 2 years |
| • Passport Labs, Inc. | 2 years |
| • Seiler Instrument & Mfg. Co., Inc. | 1 year |
| • Sherwin Industries, Inc. | 1 year |
| • The Petry-Kuhne Company
d/b/a Petry-Kuhne Company, as well as Illinois Erectors | 1 year |

Ms. Smith moved to approve the certifications as read. Mr. Resnick seconded the motion.

During discussion, commissioners reviewed the demographic information for Passport Labs and Sherwin Industries, but did not change the certification lengths from the recommendations. Following the discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Proposed Letter Supporting C-U Reparations Coalition

Ms. Panthen stated that the C-U Reparation Coalition had requested HRC write a letter supporting their agenda and she presented a draft letter to the commissioners. If approved, the coalition requests delivery of the letter to them to present to the City Council.

Mr. Resnick clarified that the commission need not wait until the next meeting to vote and moved to accept the letter as written. Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Members expressed strong support for letter. Ms. Panthen as chair offered a friendly amendment to change the date on the draft to today's date. Following the discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

G. OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Boyd shared her monthly report. Highlights included:

- Status of complaints and referrals made
- Planning continues for the City of Urbana Juneteenth 2025 celebration events, which will occur on Thursday, June 12th and Wednesday, June 18th

- “Violence Prevention Visioning” occurs Tuesday, June 3rd, at 4:00 p.m. at the Champaign Public Library. The program includes presenters from Boston’s Children's Hospital, as well as the University of Illinois.

Moments in Human Rights History included:

- May 20, 1743: Francois-Dominique Toussaint Louverture, one of the “Fathers of Haiti” born
- May 20, 1861: North Carolina secedes from the union; Kentucky declares neutrality, which lasts for four months, until the Confederacy entered the state
- May 20, 1932: Earhart becomes first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic
- May 20, 1961: Freedom Riders arrive in Montgomery; police allow white mob to attack
- May 20, 1996: U.S. Supreme Court decides “Romer v. Evans”, allowing states to provide legal protections to its gay citizens

Mr. Resnick inquired about the City of Urbana’s ordinance is useful versus the Fair Housing Act as far as when they overlap and when one might be better than the other. Ms. Boyd explained that the Fair Housing Act has assisted with more complicated situations. She regularly explains to complainants their options when they consider pursuing a case.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This Commission has three openings. A calendar shared with members requesting assistance with recruitment and outreach has had some sign-ups. A Southeast Urbana Neighborhood Association (SEUNA) meeting occurs on Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Jerry reminded the other commissioners that he found out about this commission at that meeting last year.
2. Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Ms. Panthen adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Unzicker
Recording Secretary