



City of Albuquerque - Office of Civil Rights
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City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 starting at 4:30 pm (MST)
Location: Zoom
Contact: Crystal Velarde, 505-768-4544

Board Members Present:

Virginia Necochea, Chair
Adrien Lawyer, Vice-Chair
Douglas Alsup
Samia Assed
Michael Jefferson

Board Member Not Present:

Joan Yazze-Gallegos
Sradha Patel

City Staff Present:

Torri Jacobus, Managing Assistant City Attorney, Office of Civil Rights
Michelle Melendez, Director of Office of Equity & Inclusion
Lara Christensen, Board Attorney
Jordan Vargas, ADA Title II Coordinator
Vincente Quevedo, Deputy Director of Office of Equity & Inclusion
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator, Office of Civil Rights

- I. **Call to Order:**
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Necochea at approximately 4:34 pm
- II. **Approval of Agenda & Minutes**
 - a. Member Jefferson moved to approve the agenda and the minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Lawyer. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
- III. **Introduction**
 - a. Chair Necochea requested the board members introduce themselves.
- IV. **Public Comment**

No members of the public were present for comment.
- V. **Director Reports**
 - a. Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI)
 - i. Mrs. Melendez shared Mariela Ruiz-Angel was honored as Community Advocate of the Year with the Eagle Award by Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains- her team joined a virtual gala on May 17 to recognize her.
 - ii. Mrs. Melendez also provided updates on how her office is assisting during COVID-19.
 - b. Office of Civil Rights (OCR)
 - i. Mrs. Jacobus shared she has teamed up with Jordan Vargas, the ADA Coordinator for the city. They are planning trainings for the ADA

Anniversary coming up in July. They planned on using the Senior Centers however, due to COVID they are unavailable through the summer. She and Ms. Vargas have discussed zoom trainings as well.

1. Member Assed said she would like to have trainings at the Peace Center once restrictions are lifted.
2. Member Jefferson wanted to know what the board could do to help or how could they participate. Chair Necochea suggested they address it under new business on the agenda.

VI. Response to Hate Incident and Statement in Support of Africana Studies at UNM

- a. Chair Necochea shared and read a draft statement prepared by OEI in response to recent hate statements directed at the Chair of the UNM Africana Studies Program, Dr. Charles Becknell, Jr. The proposal was that the statement would be presented to the community from OEI, OCR and the Human Rights Board.
 - i. The Board discussed alternatives to the statement that was provided.
 1. Member Jefferson requested the board do their own separate statement and he is willing to draft it. The Board discussed how a member was concerned that the drafted statement was not strong enough and was more political than a statement that the Board could draft separately.
 2. Member Assed suggested they collaborate with OCR and OEI on the statement already available for editing as well as provide their own statement.
 3. After discussion, Member Assed seconded Member Jefferson's request in the board making their own stronger statement. Member Jefferson moved for the Board to prepare a separate statement and work with the city to get it published. The Chair inquired how long the statement would take to draft. Member Jefferson raised a point of order for his motion. The Board discussed the motion with Board counsel, Ms. Christensen.
 4. Member Jefferson temporarily left the meeting. Chair Necochea requested that Vice Chair Lawyer serve as presiding member for the meeting as she needed to leave the meeting early.
 5. The Board returned to discussing Member Jefferson's motion. Member Assed stated that she had seconded the motion. The Board discussed the motion and possible timelines. Member Jefferson will draft a statement for the board to vote on.

VII. Reconvene

- a. At approximately 6:03 pm, Member Assed was disconnected from the call and the Board no longer had a quorum of membership. The remaining members agreed to reconvene on Tuesday, May 23, 2020, at 4:30 pm.

Virginia Necochea, Chair

Date