



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

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 starting at 4:30 pm (MST)

Location: <https://cabq.zoom.us/j/97877022183?pwd=OFRMYIBFNDR4TjdrYllyYmVt3a2UyUT09>

Contact: Crystal Velarde, 505-768-4544

### **Board Members Present:**

Adrien Lawyer, Vice-Chair  
Michael Jefferson  
Douglas Alsup  
Samia Assed  
Joan Yazze-Gallegos

### **Board Member Not Present:**

Virginia Necochea, Chair  
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, Assistant City Attorney  
Jordan Vargas, ADA Coordinator  
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator, Office of Civil Rights  
Raquel Pinto, Law Clerk

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Lawyer at approximately 4:34 pm.

#### **II. Moment of Silence**

- a. A moment of silence was held.

#### **III. Approval of**

##### **a. Minutes from March 1, 2020**

- i. Member Alsup moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Assed. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

##### **b. Agenda**

- i. Member Jefferson moved to approve the agenda by moving item 7 to item 4. The motion was seconded by Member Assed. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

#### **IV. Investigation review & Determination in matter number 20-001 & 20-002**

##### **a. 20-001**

- i. Following review by the Board, Member Jefferson moved to find a no probable cause in matter number 20-001. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Lawyer. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**b. 20-002**

- i. Following review by the Board, Vice-Chair Lawyer moved to find a no probable cause in the matter number 20-002. The motion was seconded by Member Jefferson. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**V. Public Comment**

- a. There was no written or verbal comment from the public at this meeting.

**VI. Director Reports**

**a. Office of Civil Rights**

- i. Updates were provided to the board on pending complaints, closed complaints as well as intake stats.
- ii. OCR is working with the City ADA Coordinator to provide weekly trainings to the public for the ADA Anniversary in July.

**b. Office of Equity & Inclusion**

- i. The OEI report was provided at the May 19, 2020 meeting.

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

- a. The Human Rights Board (HRB) discussed the statement/letter Member Jefferson provided to come from the HRB directly.
- b. The Board was reminded that OCR/HRB does not have jurisdiction over other governmental entities which includes UNM. Discussion also included who does have jurisdiction over UNM. The HRB was also informed that UNM has an internal investigation process.
- c. The Board drafted a letter during the meeting. Mrs. Jacobus will share the letter with CAO Sarita Nair to answer any questions she may have before the letter is sent out.
- d. HRB members will provide digital signatures to OCR to include all on the letter.
- e. Member Jefferson moved to approve the letter subject to the approval of COA Sarita Nair to UNM by the HRB. The motion was seconded by Member Assed. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
  - i. Two members were not present at the meeting. The letter will be sent to them and they can be included in the signature block if they wish.

**VIII. Focus on COVID-19 and Human Rights**

- a. Vice-Chair Lawyer moved to table the above section. The motion was seconded by Member Jefferson. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**IX. Decide next steps/plan of action**

- a. The HRB agreed their next step was to send the letter they voted on in section VII and if other items needed action they need to be added specifically.

**X. New Business/Announcements**

- a. Member Assed requested the HRB receive some form of communication training or possible racial training.
  - i. OCR will work on putting together a training for the HRB.
- b. Member Assed also shared Ramadan is over and she is hoping to obtain 10,000 masks for distribution.

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. Vice-Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm. The motion was seconded by Member Assed. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

\*Portions of the May 19, 2020 were addressed again at this meeting as there was not a full recording of the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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Virginia Necochea, Chair

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Date