



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

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 starting at 5:00 pm (MST)
Location: Zoom
Contact: Crystal Velarde, 505-768-4544

Board Members Present:

Adrien Lawyer
Beckham Rivera
Leticia Trujillo
Samia Assed
Larry Hinojos Jr.

City Staff Present

Alexander Vang, Board Attorney
Torri Jacobus, Managing Assistant City Attorney for Office of Civil Rights
Michelle Melendez, Director of Equity & Inclusion Office
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator Office of Civil Rights
Jordan Vargas, ADA Title II Coordinator
Jordan Velasquez, Office of Civil Rights Law Clerk

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lawyer at 5:05 pm.

II. Introductions

- a. Board members introduced themselves to the public.

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Chair Lawyer called for approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2021 & June 29, 2021

- a. Chair Lawyer called for approval of the June 15, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.
- b. Chair Lawyer called for approval of the June 29, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

V. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

VI. Director's Report

a. Office of Civil Rights (OCR)

- i. A report was sent out prior to the meeting for the members to review. It included statistics for the period of June 11, 2021 to August 11, 2021, as well as events planned by the office.
- ii. OCR has handled 75 new matters since our last meeting. The types of discrimination are as follows:

1. Public accommodation – 19 matters
 2. Employment – 12 matters
 3. Housing – 31 matters
 4. Other – 13 matters
- iii. OCR provided updates on 5 pending complaints.
- iv. Outreach included:
1. Ongoing – Chair of Domestic Violence Task Force.
 2. Ongoing – Attending bi-monthly Albuquerque Affordable Housing Coalition meetings.
 3. Ongoing – Chair of the New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Equity and Justice.
 4. 6/17/2021 – Co-sponsoring Trans 202 with NM Black Lawyers Association and the NMLGBTQ Bar Association. (Pride Month event).
 5. 7/29/2021 - #FreeTheHair Town Hall – coordinated by our youth leaders to educate the public on the new laws regarding race based hair discrimination.
- v. Upcoming outreach:
1. 08/19/21 – CROWN Act discussion with the NMLGBTQ Bar Association.
- ii. Other updates
1. OCR currently has two new positions that are posted on the City’s jobs site. They are Coordinator of Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence Prevention and Assistant City Attorney. Please share word of these positions widely.
 2. Two new Board members are scheduled to be confirmed by City Council on August 16, 2021. They are Mr. Larry Hinojos and Ms. Uche Ohiri.
- iii. Request for a special meeting regarding matter 21-001.
1. Ms. Jacobus requested the Board hold a special meeting to discuss matter 21-001, or place it on their next regular agenda. Chair Lawyer moved to hold a special meeting on September 7, 2021, to discuss matter 21-001. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Rivera. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

b. Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI)

- i. A report was sent out prior to the July meeting for the members to review. Ms. Melendez also provided updates for the last month. It included events, trainings, and City updates.
- ii. OEI updates:
 1. OEI has launched a federal grant program with ten partners. The program is for communities of color and providing access to information regarding COVID as well as vaccines.
 2. Office of Native American Affairs is working with stakeholders and tribal representatives regarding the burial site at the Albuquerque Indian School. They are working on a way to honor those who were

buried there not just replace the plaque. Native American Affairs also co-sponsored a healthy native youth program with First Nations and APS.

3. The Office of African American Affairs held a meet and greet at Hollow Spirits. It was well attended and promoted by the youth interns in the city, Ms. Memar and Ms. Kyana. Those who attended were able to provide input on the Office of African American Affairs name, the website, what the office priorities should be, and the city in general. The Office of African American Affairs is asking the public for a new name so it is not confused with the state office.
 4. The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) is continuing on their work in language access. OIRA is also preparing for asylum seekers in Albuquerque. Lutheran Family Services will be settling 250 refugees in the coming year here in Albuquerque.
- iii. Trainings
1. 8/18/21 – Implicit Bias Training
 2. Next week, APD Cadet training with Member Assed and Chair Lawyer. OEI has been providing this training for the past three years. They will be doing a warm hand off to the Academy Commander. The Commander will receive training on the importance of this work and how to approach the City’s community partners.
 3. Next week on Friday and Saturday OEI will be hosting an intensive Anti-Racism training.
 4. Last week, OEI had a training on What is Critical Race Theory & What is it Not with Professor Harpalani.
- iv. City updates
1. OEI is working with OCR and legal’s Policy team on cannabis equity.
 2. OEI is also continuing to work on eviction prevention. The City received \$27 million from the Federal Government and have provided citizens with \$13.5 million in rental assistance.
- v. Events
1. OEI is participating in the annual PRIDE parade with the Mayor’s office.
 2. OEI will be assisting the Mexican Consulate in an event to provide medical assistance and resources.
 3. OEI is working with the Center on Peace and Justice to provide ASL interpreters at the March on Washington event. Ms. Melendez will send out more information as it becomes available to her.
 4. Ms. Melendez requested the Board think about participating in an equity and inclusion awareness campaign. Chair Lawyer suggested all members think about this and they will discuss their ideas as a Board at the next meeting.

VII. Know Your Rights

- a. Mr. Schwartz was unable to log in. Therefore, this matter was not heard.

VIII. Board Updates/Announcements

- a. Survey updates
 - i. The survey received 11 responses. The Board discussed having an ongoing survey, including their community groups and translating the survey in other languages.
- b. Center for Peace and Justice will be holding an event on August 28, 2021. The March on Washington in Washington event and more details can be found on the Center for Peace and Justice page soon.
- c. There will be a vigil at Washington for the 13-year old child who lost his life on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Brainstorm on an Equity and Inclusion Campaign with OEI.
- b. Discuss a possible outdoor event to promote the Board and Create Community Relationships.
- c. Discuss inviting other organizations to present at the HRB meetings, to build relationships with other organizations.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chair Lawyer adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Adrien Lawyer, Chair

Date