



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

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 starting at 4:30 pm (MST)
Location: Zoom
Contact: Crystal Velarde, 505-768-4544

Board Members Present:

Adrien Lawyer
Douglas Alsup
Samia Assed
Michael Jefferson
Joel Trujillo

City Staff Present

Bryan Rowland, Board Attorney
Torri Jacobus, Managing Assistant City Attorney for Office of Civil Rights
Michelle Melendez, Director of Office of Equity & Inclusion
Esteban Aguilar Jr., City Attorney
Harold Medina, Acting Chief, Albuquerque Police Department
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator Office of Civil Rights
Jordan Vargas, ADA Title II Coordinator
Kelsey Barnes, Intern
Nicolas Estrada, Intern
Lillian Parker, Intern

Board Members Not Present

Sradha Patel
Denisha Pierre

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Lawyer at approximately 4:38 pm.

II. Introductions

- a. Board members and City staff introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Chair Lawyer called for any corrections to the agenda. There were no corrections. The agenda was approved as distributed.

IV. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2020

- a. Chair Lawyer called for any corrections to the September 15, 2020 minutes. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved as distributed.

V. Public Comment

- a. Rosemary Blanchard emailed the Board prior to the meeting. She was unable to attend due to a conflict but wanted to share her concerns regarding homelessness. Member Assed inquired as to what resources are available for homeless people especially now during the winter months. She also brought up how businesses have opened their parking lots as campgrounds for the homeless and are being cited by the city. City Attorney Aguilar informed the Board that there are zoning issues that

go through Environmental Health and the Planning Department. He also recommended the Board invite the City's Family and Community Department (FCS) to a meeting, check their website, or view the Council meeting from November 16, 2020. FCS can answer any questions regarding resources available for the homeless.

VI. Discussion and vote on proposed Resolution on behalf of the Human Rights Board Condemning the Arrival of Federal Agents to the City of Albuquerque

- a. Vice-Chair Jefferson requested the Board strike the phrase "dispatched by the President of the United States".
- b. Vice Chair moved to accept the Resolution with the proposed edit and send forward to the appropriate parties. The motion was seconded by Member Alsup. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
- c. OCR will work with Board Attorney Rowland to have this sent to City Council.

VII. Presentation/Question and Answer Session with Acting Chief Medina Regarding APD Policies and Procedures

- a. Acting Chief Medina shared how Albuquerque Police Department is currently operating, their plans, and programs for youth.
- b. There are four key areas APD is focusing on.
 - i. Reduction of crime using anti-crime operations throughout the city.
 - ii. Community policing and community outreach.
 - iii. Recruiting a diverse police department.
 - iv. Meeting the requirements of the settlement agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- c. Questions were asked regarding APD working with partners during COVID, what APD is doing to better their relationship with the community, and use of force policies.
 - i. APD is working closely with the courts and the jails to prioritize cases. They are also willing to meet community members to discuss issues to make the department better. APD is still in the process of working with the DOJ as well. APD understands it is a process, but they are working on compliance issues and will continue to work to make the department better.

VIII. 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 time period of September 10, 2020 to November 13, 2020 as well as events planned by the office.
 - ii. OCR has handled 63 distinct inquiries during that time period.
 1. Type: Public Accommodation – 5, Employment – 11, Housing - 33, and Other - 14.

recommendation will next go to the Mayor's office who will then forward it to City Council. City Council will make the ultimate decision.

- v. OEI is working with other departments regarding eviction prevention. The City has distributed half a million dollars in rental assistance in the last three months. The City has \$200,000 to hold them over through December, and then another million dollars will be available for rental assistance in January of 2021.
- vi. Ms. Melendez presented at the Facing Race Conference where there were 3,000 to 4,000 in attendance.
- vii. OEI will also be helping with \$2.5 million that was allocated by City Council as economic stimulus for those who did not qualify for a federal stimulus payment or unemployment.

IX. Administrative Matters

a. Vote on Chair & Vice Chair positions for 2021.

i. Chair

- 1.** Member Assed moved to have Chair Lawyer continue as Chair. Vice Chair Jefferson seconded the motion. Member Alsup abstained. Vice Chair Jefferson, Members Assed, Trujillo, Chair Lawyer voted in favor. Motion was passed with a majority vote.
- 2.** Member Assed moved to have Vice Chair Jefferson continue as Vice Chair. Member Trujillo seconded the motion. Member Alsup abstained. Members Assed, Trujillo, Chair Lawyer and Vice Chair Jefferson voted in favor. Motion was passed with a majority vote.

b. Vote on Human Rights Board Resolution for 2021.

- i.** Vice Chair Jefferson moved to adopt the Human Rights Board Resolution (Notice Requirements for Meetings of the Board) whereby the Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month except December and meetings will begin at 5 pm. Motion was seconded by Member Alsup. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

X. Adjournment

- a.** Chair Lawyer adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Adrien Lawyer, Chair

Date