

City of Albuquerque - Office of Civil Rights 1 Civic Plaza, Albuquerque, NM 87102 Phone- 505-768-4595, TTY 711 civilrights@cabq.gov

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: City Staff Present

Adrien Lawyer Bryan Rowland, Board Attorney

Douglas Alsup Torri Jacobus, Managing Assistant City Attorney for Office

Samia Assed of Civil Rights

Michael Jefferson Michelle Melendez, Director of Office of Equity & Inclusion

Joel Trujillo Esteban Aguilar Jr., City Attorney

Harold Medina, Acting Chief, Albuquerque Police

Department

Board Members Not Present Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator Office of Civil Rights

Sradha Patel Jordan Vargas, ADA Title II Coordinator

Denisha Pierre Kelsey Barnes, Intern

Nicolas Estrada, Intern Lillian Parker, Intern

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.

- 2. Category: Age 3, Disability 21, Gender 1, Ancestry 1, Retaliation 1, Race 12, Religion 3, Sexual Harassment 1, Sexual Orientation 1, National Origin 2, Ethnicity 2, Other 7, Color 1, Harassment 1, Non-Discrimination 25
- iii. OCR provided updates on 4 pending complaints, 1 completed complaint, and 1 planned complaint.

iv. Outreach included:

- 1. City Council allocated \$100,000 for DV related housing issues. OCR is working with Family & Community as well as the Domestic Violence Task Force to allocate those funds.
- There are also some CARES funds for domestic violence agencies that OCR and OEI are working on establishing a plan for distribution.
- 3. Justice Bacon and Ms. Jacobus will be presenting a CLE on Nov. 19, 2020. It is a part of a three-day series with the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association and co-sponsored by OCR.
- 4. Ms. Jacobus presented to Walmart Home Office Executives regarding racism and changes their organization can make.
- 5. Ms. Jacobus co-presented a CLE session on Voter Suppression with Professor Vinay Harpalani at the Committee on Diversity Annual Diversity Symposium.

v. Upcoming Outreach

1. Ms. Jacobus has been asked to do a post-election wrap up and voter suppression session with Professor Vinay Harpalani.

b. Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI)

- i. OEI is circulating a survey about what we want to see in the next Police Chief. Ms. Melendez encouraged board members as well as attendees to fill out the survey. She will also be sitting on the selection committee for the Chief of Police applications.
- ii. Ms. Melendez shared OEI has been working on scheduling meetings with APD. In October, OEI was able to obtain 15 different groups to open the lines of communication with APD.
- iii. OEI is continuing with training for city employees. They will be conducting training sessions with City Council as well as the Mayor's office in December.
- iv. Race, History and Healing Project started in June and wrapped up in November. There were about 250 people who participated in the community sessions, 1290 people filled out surveys, and 120 additional people had one on one interviews. All the information was compiled and taken into consideration. The Community Solutions group came up with a recommendation to move the Oñate statue away from the current location. They have recommended that the history be completely contextualized at the new location. Their recommendation went to the Arts Board. The

- recommendation will next go to the Mayor's office who will than 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
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Adrien Lawyer, Chair	Date	