

City of Albuquerque
Human Rights Board
December 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Chair Anami Dass (*District 9*)
Vice Chair Jack Champagne (*District 8*)
Kathryn Boulton (*District 7*)
Larry Hinojos, Jr. (*District 6*)
IPC Leticia Galvez-Trujillo (*District 9*)

Board Members Not Present

Samia Assed (*District 8*)
Kimberly Andujo (*District 6*)

Staff Members Present

Dr. Nina Cooper, *Community Empowerment, OEI*
Vanessa Arballo, *Bank On Program Manager*
Charles Davis, *Board Attorney*
Carolyn Tanaka, *ADAAC Member*

Members of the Public (Speaking)

Rosemary Blanchard
Sarah Azibo

This meeting was held via Zoom and Broadcast on GovTV. [Watch the meeting using this link.](#)

I. Call to Order

1. Chair Dass call the special meeting to order at 5:10 PM on December 10, 2024

II. Introductions

1. All members of the Board, Staff, and members of the public introduced themselves.

III. Approvals

1. December 10, 2024 Special **Meeting Agenda**
 - A. Motion: Member Hinojos
 - B. Second: Member Galvez-Trujillo
 - C. Vote: 5-0-2 (Approved)
2. October 19, 2024 **Meeting Minutes**
 - A. Motion: Member Boulton
 - B. Seond: Chair Dass
 - C. Vote: 5-0-2 (Approved)

IV. Public Comment

1. **Rosemary Blanchard** thanked the board for taking human rights seriously, suggested the City provide an independent staff to the board, and wished everyone a Happy Human Rights Day.
2. **Sarah Azibo** wished everyone Happy Human Rights day and thanked both Chair Dass and the board for their advocacy and focus on housing this year. She indicated that she would continue to work with them to uplift Human Rights in the City.

V. Presentation – 50th Human Rights Day in Albuquerque (Dass)

1. The Mayor’s Office issued a proclamation declaring Albuquerque’s 50th Human Rights Day. Board members took turns reading through sections of the proclamation. The proclamation is available at [this link](#).

VI. Director’s Report

1. Office of Civil Rights
 - A. Dr. Cooper reported that the recruitment for the OCR position has proved challenging due to the specialized skills set required. Next level approval for a potential candidate is currently at the executive level. The OCR Admin position is also in the process of recruitment to provide full-time in support of Board and on other issues. Currently, OCR is engaging in a team approach with Cecelia Webb, senior constituent services, in Mayor’s Office to cover Civil Rights/Consumer Protection issues while position is vacant. Most requests/complaints being received are tenant/landlord issues. Dr. Cooper also let the Board know that she is working on getting some numbers to summarize what the civil rights complaints currently look like.
 - B. Chair Dass asked the question about the Consumer Protection services. Dr. Cooper explained the process is the same for the handling of complaints and confirmed that the individual who is hired for the OCR position will also be working on Consumer Protection issues. She also mentioned that the OCR manager will collaborate closely with the Financial Empowerment manager on these issues.
 - C. Chair Dass had questions about Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and wanted to find out what CFE programs the City is currently working on. Vanessa Arballo provided detailed information on the programs we are currently working on to include Bank On Burque, Summer Jobs Connect, and some Consumer Protection presentations for Seniors. Dr. Cooper provided supplemental information.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

1. Advocacy & Representation Subcommittee – Member Hinojos asked if there was tabling material available for outreach. Chair Dass mentioned that Lisa Schatz-Vance had literature previously. Dr. Cooper committed to follow-up and disseminate that material to the Board.
2. Research, Investigation & Policy Subcommittee – Member Boulton did not have an official report. She invited colleagues to get together and plan for 2025.
3. Integration & Sustainability subcommittee – Vice Chair Champagne did not have an official report. Goal for next year is to make explicit and formalize the public hearing procedure to help alleviate some of the issues that arose this previous year.

VIII. 2025 Board Chair & Vice Chair Elections

1. Member Boulton nominated Anami Dass for Board Chair for upcoming year. Member Galvez-Trujillo seconded the nomination. Board unanimously agreed and Anami Dass was confirmed for the Board Chair for the next year.
2. Board member Boulton shared a self-nomination for Board Vice Chair. Chair Dass seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously agreed and Kate Boulton was confirmed as the Vice Chair for the next year.

IX. Changes to the Board Rules and Regulations

1. Chair Dass described the changes she proposed to the Board Rules and Regulations.
 - A. Motion to refer the proposal on rules and regulation changes to the Research, Investigations, & Policy subcommittee in tandem with the Integration and Sustainability subcommittee for review
 - i. Motion: Chair Dass
 - ii. Second: Vice Chair Elect Boulton
 - iii. Vote: 5-0-2 (Approved)
 - B. Community member Rosemary Blanchard suggested that any board staff be independent from the City/Administration in the event of a quasi-judicial hearing that is a subject of complaint.
 - C. Chair Dass thanked Rosemary for her input and asked Attorney Davis how a conflict of interest would be handled for OCR, if needed. Attorney Davis indicated that he would do additional research and report back.

X. HRB Resolution No. 2024-99: Annual Report

- A. Chair Dass reviewed the Board schedule for 2025. Meetings will occur on the third Thursday with the exception of the June meeting due to Juneteenth being a federal holiday. The June Board meeting will be held on the fourth Thursday instead.
- B. Section 9 of the resolution indicates that the Board approves the cover letter to the annual report in fulfillment with the Human Rights Ordinance. Chair Dass walked Board members through a draft of the proposed annual report.
- C. Motion to Approve HRB R-2024-99 and HRB OC-2024-99
 - i. Motion: Chair Anami Dass
 - ii. Second: Vice Chair Jack Champagne
 - iii. Vote: 5-0-2 (Approved)

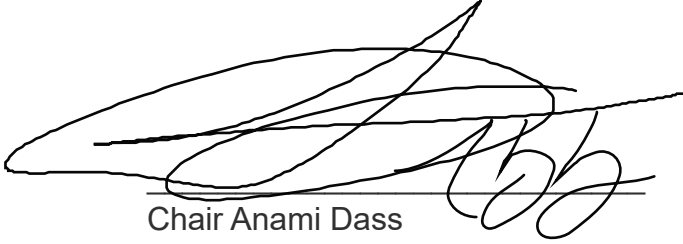
XI. Announcements

1. Next Human Rights Board Meeting will be January 16, 2025 at 5:00pm.
2. Chair Dass thanked the Board and staff for their work and perspectives contributed over the last year.
3. She also thanked the ASL interpreters for their presence while also expressing the importance of keeping meetings accessible to everyone. The interpreters

have facilitated this ability.

XII. Adjournment

1. Meeting adjourned by Chair Dass at 6:30 pm



Chair Anami Dass

1-16-2025
Date