



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

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 starting at 5:00 pm (MST)
Location: Zoom
Contact: Crystal Velarde, 505-768-4544

Board Members Present:

Adrien Lawyer
Denisha Pierre
Beckham Rivera
Leticia 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
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator Office of Civil Rights
Jordan Vargas, ADA Title II Coordinator
Jordan Velasquez, Intern

Board Members Not Present:

Samia Assed

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lawyer at 5:07 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 April 20, 2021

- a. Chair Lawyer called for approval of the April 20, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

V. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2021

- a. Chair Lawyer called for approval of the April 28, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

VI. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this time.

VII. 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 April 17, 2021, to May 14, 2021, as well as events planned by the office.

- ii. OCR has handled 29 new matters since our last meeting. The types of discrimination are as follows:
 - 1. Public accommodation – 5 matters
 - 2. Employment – 4 matters
 - 3. Housing – 17 matters
 - 4. Other – 3 matters
- iii. OCR provided updates on 3 pending complaints and 3 closed 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. 4/22/21 – Attended the ABA African American Affairs Committee meeting.
 - 5. 4/28/21 – Presented to the Nevada Senate on the anti-discrimination in hair/CROWN Act work in NM and Albuquerque and the historical and current harms done to Black women through hair discrimination.
- v. Upcoming outreach:
 - 1. 5/27/21 – Discussion with University of Arkansas Pre Law Summer students.
 - 2. 5/27/21 – Co-sponsoring community event with NM Black Lawyers Association: Working Towards Solidarity Between Asian American and Black Communities. Professor Vinay Harpalani will present.
 - 3. 6/17/21 – CROWN Act discussion with the NMLGBTQ Bar Association.

b. Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI)

- i. Nichole Rogers, African American Affairs Liaison, is working on a three-day Juneteenth event. The event will be held on Civic Plaza and will begin on June 18th and run through the 20th. There will be music, booths, a Black Wall Street, and a kid zone. Ms. Melendez will send the board more details.
- ii. OEI has posted the Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Liaison position and received 15 applications. They will be doing interviews over the next two weeks and hope to fill the position by June.
- iii. Councilor Sena is sponsoring a resolution standing up against hate for Asian American and Pacific Islander populations. This resolution is scheduled to go before the City Council in June.
- iv. Ms. Melendez shared, City Council approved \$2.5 million dollars to make all buses free for everyone.
- v. June 20th is World Refugee Day. Ms. Melendez is hosting an event and will send an invitation to the Board.

- vi. OEI has published their Racial Equity Toolkit on their website. The toolkit provides information on how to take a more equitable approach.

VIII. Members Share Their Vision & Goals for the Board

- a. Members shared what they believed the Board had the ability to do and what was important for them. They all agreed they would like to focus on education and do “know your rights” types of segments. The Board would also like more public comment as to what the public would like them to focus on. Members also suggested reviewing any city policies pertaining to human rights and having special guest(s) to teach the Board about possible city resources they could share.
- b. Vice-Chair Rivera moved to create an educational subcommittee for purposes of navigating future trainings by the Board, and Member Pierre seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Vice-Chair Rivera and Member Trujillo will work on coordinating a speaker for the June Know Your Rights segment.

IX. Finalization & Vote on Community Survey

- a. The Board reviewed all the questions on the survey together and made a few changes. Ms. Jacobus will work on getting the survey posted within a week and the survey will be open to the public for two weeks. Once the survey is closed the data will be provided to the Board for their review.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chair Lawyer adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Adrien Lawyer, Chair

Date