

MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
Commission Meeting MINUTES of Monday, January 23, 2011
Minneapolis City Hall, Martin Luther King, Jr. Conference Room - 241
350 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN

6:03 PM, Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance: Lonnie Nichols, Patricia Nelson, Michelle Monteiro, Adosh Unni, Thomas Gallagher, Michael McHugh, Emily Froehle, Jennifer Thompson, Wendy Adler Robinson, Peter Larsen, Danielle Shelton Walczak, Kenneth Fukuda, Terrance Noble, G. Christine Peters

Commissioners Absent: John Oberreuter, Bernadette Casey, Marla Khan, Surya Rochel, Cecelia Rodriguez-Melendez

City Staff: Michael Browne, Carol Bachun

Guests: Leah Solo, Minnesotans United for All Families

Approval of Agenda: Moved Unni, Second Nelson, Approved

Approval December 19, 2011 MCCR minutes; Moved McHugh, Second Thompson, Abstain Froehle, Approved

A Civil Rights poster was circulated for signatures and comments as a get well card for Commissioner Rodriguez-Melendez who is absent on medical leave.

Leah Solo from Minnesotans United for All Families presents a Power Point and distributes a hand out related to the organization's educational efforts to and campaign to defeat the constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage in the state of Minnesota. Question and Answer period follows and Commissioners are encouraged to support the effort. Additional information can be obtained at: info@mnunited.org or www.mnunited.org

Civil Rights Department Reports:

Michael Browne, Assistant Director (AD) provides report on Probable Cause (PC), No Probable Cause (NPC) and Dismissals, indicating that as of January 23, 2012, there are 71 case files pending resolution with the department. There are 6 cases being conciliated by the department: 12 current cases under review by the Commission; 0 PC, 5 NPC and 7 Dismissals. Of the 71 cases, 2 were in the 13 – 30 months category and 1 was older than 31 months, for a total of 3 cases in the backlog. Any case over 365 days old is deemed to be in the backlog. AD Browne indicates that 160 cases have been contracted for the 2012 EEOC.

AD Browne distributes a handout of 2012 MCCR Meeting Dates, adjusted for Holidays that fall on Mondays. Browne encourages Commissioner Outreach (on the business of the Commission) to individuals, groups, neighborhoods and communities in the City of Minneapolis and to recommend applicants for vacant positions on the Commission.

Commission on Civil Rights Committee Reports:

Chair Monteiro asks that Subcommittee chairs describe the work of their committees in preparation for Commissioners to select subcommittee assignments for 2012.

Contract Compliance – McHugh explains that CC works directly with the City of Minneapolis staff on public contracts. Disenfranchised Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification is now enforced by the City of Minneapolis. McHugh and Thompson will speak on DBE at a MN Legal Bar Association workshop on February 10, 2012.

Public Relations and Education: Commissioner Nelson reports that the Martin Luther King, Jr. essay winner awards will be presented in front of the full City Council on Friday, January 27, 2012. All Commissioners are invited to attend this event which starts at 9:30 AM. PR&E is also considering a Community Service Award, has an On-Air presentation with KFAI radio scheduled for April, and is the home subcommittee of a Research Task Force studying the potential impact of the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage.

Standards and Procedures: Commissioner Monteiro states that all Lawyers appointed to the Commission as Attorneys are required to serve on the S & P committee and that Non-Attorneys are also welcome. The committee currently has a goal to discuss changes proposed for PC and NPC procedures and mediation forms with department staff.

Appeals Committee: Commissioner Unni reports that the Appeals Committee finalized decisions on 4 cases on January 19 and will review additional cases in February.

League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission: Commissioner Nelson, LMHRC Director At-large says that the next LMHRC meeting is on January 29, 2012.

Chair Monteiro, in preparation for February Officer Elections, encourages everyone to review commission materials and consider running for an officer position next month.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment at 7:04 PM: Moved Unni; Second Froehle; Approved