

**CITY OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MINUTES**

Thursday, April 29, 2021
555 S 10th Street, 1st Floor
City County Building, Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER:

The April 29, 2021 meeting of the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Carlos Garcia, Chair.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners: Carlos Garcia (Chair), Precious Loving-Afuh (Vice Chair), Sheri Blok, and Jolene McCulley.

New Commissioners Kevin Abourezk and Alyssa Martin were also present and sworn in by City Clerk, Soulinnee Phan.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioners: Terry Werner, Rose Godinez, Emira Ibrahimasic.

STAFF PRESENT:

Mindy Rush Chipman, Abigail Littrell, Rob Rowan, Chassidy Jackson-Goodwin, Shanna Eckman, and Thuyhong Le, Cameron Azimi, and Mallorie Sckerl.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 25, 2021 MINUTES:

A motion was made by Loving-Afuh and seconded by Blok to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Hearing no discussion, Garcia asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Garcia, Loving-Afuh, Blok and McCulley. Abstaining were Abourezk and Martin. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 29, 2021 AGENDA:

A motion was made by Loving-Afuh and seconded by McCulley to approve the meeting agenda.

Hearing no discussion, Garcia asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Garcia, Loving-Afuh, Blok, McCulley, Abourezk and Martin. Motion carried.

CASE DISPOSITIONS:

LCHR #20-0617-010-E

A motion was made by Garcia and seconded by McCulley to recommend a finding of **no reasonable cause** on all allegations.

McCulley noted that Complainant was treated poorly, but that there was no evidence of the poor treatment being directly related to Complainant's religion. Garcia and Loving-Afuh agreed, citing that while the other employees could attest to the unprofessional manner of Respondent, none of the issues they had encountered were related to religion.

Martin questioned if Respondent denied the specific allegations regarding remarks made about religion or if they denied that religion was a factor of the job. Rowan clarified that the Respondent denied both.

Abourezk mentioned that Complainant quit as opposed to being fired, which Martin agreed that the Complainant did not meet the burden of proof for that allegation.

Hearing no discussion, Garcia asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Garcia, Loving-Afuh, Blok, McCulley, Abourezk and Martin. Motion carried.

PRE-DETERMINATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS:

LCHR #20-1026-009-H

A motion was made by Loving-Afuh and seconded by Garcia to accept the pre-determination settlement agreement.

Hearing no discussion, Garcia asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Garcia, Loving-Afuh, Blok, McCulley, Abourezk and Martin. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURE:

LCHR #20-0924-020-E

A motion was made by Garcia and seconded by McCulley to accept and approve the proposed administrative closure.

Hearing no discussion, Garcia asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Garcia, Loving-Afuh, Blok, McCulley, Abourezk and Martin. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outreach

Juneteenth will be held on June 19, 2021 at Malone Center and on June 26, 2021 at “F” Street Community (at the Malone Center and the “F” Street Community Center) and Star City Pride is scheduled for June 18, 2021. These events are coming up soon and Rush Chipman encouraged Commissioners to help represent LCHR at these and other community events to help increase anti-discrimination awareness and LCHR’s services.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Report

Rush Chipman introduced the three new housing rights interns Thuyhong Le, Cameron Azimi, and Mallorie Sckerl, who will be assisting with housing education and outreach, including assisting with the City’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the Tenant Assistance Project (TAP). A fourth housing rights intern, Saadi Bualaq, and law clerk, Ivy Lutz, will be joining the LCHR team in May 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Marty Ramirez, chair of Mayor’s Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) spoke. While Lincoln is growing and thriving, so is racism. In an effort to combat that, Dr. Ramirez questioned if LCHR and MAC were doing their due diligence to reach out to the community to provide them with the tools to stand up for themselves. Abourezk, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Dr. Ramirez for his contributions to the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.
555 S. 10th Street, 1st Floor, Council Chambers