



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, April 25, 2016**

The Human Rights Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 301 West Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Sareta Davis called the Board Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Davis, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Buls, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Miguez, Commissioner Normand, Commissioner Royall and Commissioner Yang.

Staff in Attendance:

Jeff Burton, Assistant Director (Acting), Human Resources Department (HRD)

Jonathan Babiak, Business Process Consultant, HRD

Gail McCant, Administrator (Acting), Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EEFHO), HRD

Andrea Jordan, Administrative Assistant, EEFHO, HRD

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes from the regular meeting of March 28, 2016.

Commissioner Brown motion, Chair Davis second, passed 8-0; Vice Chair Caballero and Commissioner Leite da Silva absent.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding improvements to the Commission's electronic communication capabilities in compliance with open meetings requirements, including a report from the Working Group created at the February 22, 2016 Human Rights Commission meeting. (Normand/Davis)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- b. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on recommendations made by the Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Gentrification and Historic Preservation. (Caballero/Leite da Silva)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- c. Report, discussion, and possible action on a proposal to separate the LGBT Liaison from the Austin Police Department to increase resources. (Caballero/Davis)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- d. The Commission discussed the following goals and objectives for 2015-2016:
 - i. Community Engagement
 - ii. Best Practices
 - iii. Disparate Access
 - iv. Continued Engagement with the Austin Police Department

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Presentation from Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office staff on caseload metrics under City Code Title 5.

Gail McCant, Administrator (Acting), Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EEFHO), addressed the Commission and answered questions from the Commission.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding a draft Code amendment to add prohibitions for retaliation to Chapter 5-2, Discrimination in Public Accommodations. (Normand/Brown)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- b. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding human rights in City governance. (Leite da Silva/Davis)

The Commission did not discuss this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- c. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to City Council to ban all official travel and business with the States of Mississippi and North Carolina. (Brown/Buls)

Commissioner Brown read the draft recommendation and moved adoption, second by Commissioner Miguez. Commissioner Brown accepted Commissioner Normand's friendly amendments. The first deleted the word "horrendous" and proposed: Whereas, the City of Austin has a history of boycotting governmental entities which pass discriminatory laws, such as in 2010 when all travel and business was banned with the State of Arizona after that state passed an anti-immigration law, Arizona Senate Bill 1070. The second proposed: Whereas, the City of Austin has an affirmative interest in making sure its employee are not subjected to unfounded harassment and potential detentions while on official city business. Commissioner Brown did not accept a friendly amendment offered by Commissioner Casas. Passed on a vote of 7-0-1, Commissioner Royall abstained, Vice Chair Caballero and Commissioner Leite da Silva absent.

- d. Discussion and possible action on Human Rights Commission Officer Elections for Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Davis nominated herself for Chair, Commissioner Buls seconded the nomination, and the nominations were closed. Chair Davis was re-elected as Chair on a vote of 8-0 with Vice Chair Caballero and Commissioner Leite da Silva absent.

Commissioner Normand nominated Vice Chair Caballero for Vice Chair, Chair Davis seconded the motion, and the nominations were closed. Vice Chair Caballero was re-elected as Vice Chair on a vote of 8-0 with Vice Chair Caballero and Commissioner Leite da Silva absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m. on unanimous consent.