



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY, January 23, 2017

The Human Rights Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 301 West Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Sareta Davis called the Board Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Davis, Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Avashia, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Miguez, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Normand, Commissioner Royall, and Commissioner Yang.

Staff in Attendance:

Gail McCant, Administrator, Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EE/FHO), Human Resources Department (HRD)

Jonathan Babiak, Business Process Consultant, EE/FHO, HRD

Andrea Jordan, Administrative Assistant, EE/FHO, HRD

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Steve Mason addressed the Commission.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting of November 28, 2016 were approved on a vote of 9-0: Commissioner Brown motion, Chair Davis second. Commissioner Buls and Commissioner Casas absent.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

None

5. OLD 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)

Commissioner Normand introduced this item and read the draft recommendation. The Commission discussed this item. Commissioner Brown moved for adoption, Commissioner Miguez second. Commissioner Miller offered a friendly amendment to change "opposed" to "alleged"; Commissioner Normand did not accept the friendly amendment. The motion was approved on a 9-0-1 vote. Those members voting aye were Chair Davis, Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Avashia, Commissioner Brown,

Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Miguez, Commissioner Normand, Commissioner Royall, and Commissioner Yang. Commissioner Miller abstained. Commissioner Buls was absent.

- b. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to City Council to condemn certain conduct by the President-elect and Vice President-elect, and to ban official use of Trump products and services. (Miguez/Brown)

Commissioner Miguez introduced this item. The Commission discussed this item. Commissioner Brown proposed to Commissioner Miguez to change the reference to “HIV-positive status” on page 3 of the draft recommendation to “HIV status” similar to page 1 of the draft. Commissioner Miguez agreed with the proposed change to the draft. Commissioner Miguez read the draft recommendation. Commissioner Brown moved for adoption, Commissioner Miguez second. Commissioner Avashia offered a friendly amendment to add “immigration status” between “national origin” and “religion”; Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Miguez accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Miller offered a friendly amendment to change “citizenship” to “birthplace”; Commissioner Miguez and Commissioner Brown accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Normand offered a friendly amendment to change the date in Footnote 8 from “2016” to “2017”; Commissioner Miguez accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Normand offered a friendly amendment to add the word “allegedly” before the word “engaging” on page 2; Commissioner Miguez and Commissioner Brown accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Normand offered a friendly amendment to add “proposing the forced registration of Muslims in the United States” after “disability”; Commissioner Brown accepted the friendly amendment. The motion was approved on an 8-2 vote. Those voting aye were Chair Davis, Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Avashia, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Miguez, Commissioner Normand, and Commissioner Yang. Those voting nay were Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Royall. Commissioner Buls was absent.

- c. The Commission discussed the following goals and objectives for 2016-2017:
 - i. Community Engagement
 - ii. Best Practices
 - iii. Disparate Access
 - iv. Continued Engagement with the Austin Police Department
 - v. Address Community Issues Specific to Race, Policing, and Criminal Justice

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. on unanimous consent.