

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

February 15, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: CHAIRPERSON Richard Zaker
COMMISSIONERS Mark Schleeter

ABSENT: VICE CHAIRPERSON Vivian Goodman
COMMISSIONERS Minnie Walker, Joyce Keller, and Jerry Pelz

ALSO PRESENT: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Sherry Beasley
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATOR Fred Spannaus

I. Call to Order

Commission Chairperson Zaker called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Two out of six Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Commission Chairperson Zaker declared a quorum does not exist to approve business.

II. Appearance of Citizens

There is none.

III. Approval of January 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

IV. Monthly Activity Report & Summary of Cases

Human Rights Investigator Fred Spannaus provided a monthly status report of cases. (Exhibit A) Case # 230831. A hearing is set for March 25 in the City Council Chambers. Discussion followed regarding the judgement process if no representative of the respondent attends the hearing. If a violation is found, the penalties are outlined in Section 5-11 of what the Commission can do.

V. Unfinished Business

Commission Chairperson Zaker called for Unfinished Business.

A. Discussion on potential changes to Chapter 28 of the City Code

Human Rights Investigator Spannaus stated he made notes based on things he noticed in Sections 4 & 5. Commissioner Schleeter stated he would like clarification on some of the notes from Mr. Spannaus' handout regarding the possible action referred to city legal staff. Mr. Spannaus stated in Section 4-4, 4-5, and 4-7, he didn't feel comfortable making a recommendation to the Commission in terms of how it should be handled. He thought in the next meeting if City Legal, Amy Waks could

attend the meeting, we could ask for her advice before we propose a change to these sections.

Chairperson Zaker made the following suggestions

- Section 4-1 replace individual with Decatur resident just to signify that only Decatur residences are covered by the process. Fred stated this is not true, it depends on where the violation occurred.
- Section 4-4 in the third line replace “here” with “there”.
- At the end of the section include what is in the handbook on page 12
- Section 4-5 take out “with respect to any respondent,”

Commissioner Schleeter and Chairperson Zaker agreed with Fred’s suggestion in section 4-6B.

Chairperson Zaker asked Fred to elaborate on the issues he suggested in Sections 4-7 & 5-2. Discussion followed. Ms. Beasley suggested in Section 4-7 leave “complaint” as is and in Section 5-2, remove “by a complainant”.

Mr. Spannaus stated in the next meeting to continue discussing Section 5-2, discuss 5-3 and 5-11 and revisit Section 5-10.

VI. New Business

Commission Chairperson Zaker called for New Business.

A. There is none.

VII. Other Business

Commission Chairperson Zaker called for Other Business.

Penny Rogers stated that Mr. Spannaus will not be in attendance for the March meeting; therefore, the meeting will be cancelled.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.