

MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
Commission Meeting MINUTES of Monday, November 21, 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, John Oberreuter, Michael McHugh, Bernadette Casey, Sonja Peterson, Marla Khan, Patricia Nelson, Emily J. Froehle, Jennifer Thompson, Scott Flaherty, Michelle Monteiro, Adosh Unni, Thomas Gallagher

Commissioners Absent: Surya Rochel, Cecelia Rodriguez-Melendez

City Staff: Michael Browne, Burt Osborne, Toni Newborn

Guests: Jessica Fjelstad

Approval of Agenda: Moved Thompson, Second McHugh, Approved

Approval October 17, 2011 MCCR minutes; Moved Froehle, Second McHugh, Approved

Civil Rights Department Reports:

Toni Newborn, Senior Investigator (SI) provides report on Probable Cause (PC), No Probable Cause (NPC) and Dismissals, indicating that as of November 21, 2011, there was 62 total case files pending resolution: 21 current cases under review by the Commission; 1 PC, 9 NPC and 11 Dismissals. A general breakdown of the 62 cases with the CIU is: 3 in conciliation, 2 in 15 day, 1 filed, 8 inquiries, 17 pending answers, 10 pending rebuttal, 6 remands, 2 screenings, 32 investigation; which is a slight up-tick from October 2011. Any case over 365 days old is deemed to be in the backlog.

SI Newborn reminds Commissioners that the One Minneapolis Conference is Friday, December 2nd, 8:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Registration cost is \$50 per attendee which includes snacks and lunch.

AD Browne shares that seven (7) applicants for open Commission seats will be reviewed by the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee at public hearing on Wednesday, November 30th at 1:30 pm in the City Council Chambers.

Commission on Civil Rights Committee Reports

Contract Compliance – “What’s cool in School” produced by KARE 11 filmed a student group tour of Target Field. Commissioner McHugh participated in the tour and appears in a cameo as part of this educational program.

Public Relations and Education: Commissioner Nelson reported that preliminary review of the Martin Luther King, Jr. essays is scheduled for the December PR&E meeting. A

one hour radio presentation that may include the reading of the winning essays has been tentatively scheduled with KFAI for April 2012.

Standards and Procedures: The committee is developing a timeline to discuss changes proposed for PC and NPC procedures and mediation forms with department staff.

League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission: Commissioner Peterson asks for a volunteer(s) to fill vacancies on the LMHRC; and invites interested parties to attend the LMHRC 40th Annual Conference and dinner celebration on Friday, December 2, 4:00 – 8:00 PM in Chaska. Registration cost is \$35.00 per person.

Action: recommend the appointment of Commissioner Nelson to the LMHRC as a District Director; Peterson Moved, Flaherty Second, Approved.

Commissioner Peterson announces that she chose not to seek re-appointment to a fourth consecutive term on the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights. There is consensus agreement and support for Commissioner Peterson to continue representing the MCCR and serve the remainder of her term (expiring in 2012) as an LMHRC Director At-large.

The Commission on Civil Rights Chair Person's Report: Chair Flaherty announces that he chose not to seek re-appointment to a second consecutive term on the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights. Both Chair Flaherty and Commissioner Peterson proclaim an interest to spend more time educating the public and organizing opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage.

Chair Flaherty distributes a draft resolution in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution banning same sex marriage in the state of Minnesota. The draft resolution is discussed and a grammatical error corrected. A motion is made to call the question for a vote. The Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, by show of hands, voted unanimously to approve the resolution in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution banning same sex marriage in the state of Minnesota.

The Marriage Equality Task Force, an ad hoc subcommittee of the commission will continue to research, create a narrative and develop talking points on how passage of the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage in Minnesota may impact residents of the City of Minneapolis and state.

Public Comment: University of Minnesota student Jessica Fjelsted indicates that she is observing the tonight's commission meeting to write a course paper.

New Business: None

Adjournment at 6:43 PM: Moved Monteiro; Second Thompson; Passed.

The commission meeting was followed by a strategic planning session which included a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of MCCR activities.