MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
Commission Meeting MINUTES of Monday, December 19, 2011
Minneapolis City Hall, Martin Luther King, Jr. Conference Room - 241
350 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN

6:05 PM, Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance: Lonnie Nichols, John Oberreuter, Bernadette Casey, Sonja Peterson, Marla Khan, Patricia Nelson, Michelle Monteiro, Adosh Unni, Thomas Gallagher, Surya Rochel, Cecelia Rodriguez-Melendez

The Oath of Office is presented by City Clerk Casey Carl to newly seated commissioners: Wendy Adler Robinson, Peter Larsen, Danielle Shelton Walczak, Kenneth Fukuda, Terrance Noble, G. Christine Peters. The new commissioners provide self-introductions.

Commissioners Absent: Michael McHugh, Emily Froehle, Jennifer Thompson

City Staff: Velma Korbel, Michael Browne, Carol Bachun, Toni Newborn, Johnnie Burns, Sherman Patterson, Casey Carl

Guests: Sonja Peterson, Don Bellfield-Chair Civilian Police Review Authority, and several people who observed the new commissioner swearing-in ceremony.

Approval of Agenda: Moved Rodriguez-Melendez, Second Nelson, Approved

Approval November 21, 2011 MCCR minutes; Moved Unni, Second Rochel, Abstain Rodriguez-Melendez, Approved

Recognition: Three-term Commissioner Sonja Peterson, who chose not to pursue reappointment is honored with oral accolades and presented a framed certificate of appreciation for her service to Civil Rights and the City of Minneapolis.

Reference material from Title 2, Chapter 15 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, Ethics in Government, is provided by Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney. New and current Civil Rights Commissioners are further directed to take the ethics training online, which includes discussion topics on Conflict of Interest, Disclosure of Information and Gifts. Assistant City Attorney Susan Trammell is the City's Ethics Officer and can be reached at 612-673-3230.

Civil Rights Department Reports:
Michael Browne, Assistant Director (AD) provides report on Probable Cause (PC), No Probable Cause (NPC) and Dismissals, indicating that as of December 19, 2011, there are 60 total case files pending resolution: 13 current cases under review by the Commission; 0 PC, 5 NPC and 8 Dismissals. Of the 60 cases, 5 were in the backlog (13 – 30 months) and 0 were older than 31 months. Any case over 365 days old is deemed to be in the backlog. AD Browne indicates that 160 cases have been contracted for the 2012 EEOC.

AD Browne reviews Commissioner sign-in and reimbursement forms for meetings. He suggests that the January 2012 Commission meeting be scheduled for January 23 because Martin Luther King, Jr. day, January 16, falls on the third Monday of January 2012.

Commission on Civil Rights Committee Reports
Contract Compliance – McHugh absent, No Meeting Update provided.

Public Relations and Education: Commissioner Nelson reported that preliminary review of the Martin Luther King, Jr. essays occurred at 5 pm on December 19. Final Review of the essays is scheduled for Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 6:30 pm at Gigi's, located at 38th Street and Bryant Avenue South. January 27 is proposed as the date to present essay award winners at a City Council meeting. Commissioner Unni shares that work proceeds for a Community Civil Rights Service award and Research Task Force on the impact of the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage.

Standards and Procedures: Did not meet, the committee has a goal to discuss changes proposed for PC and NPC procedures and mediation forms with department staff.

Appeals Committee: Commissioner Gallagher reports that he and commissioners Froehle and Nichols reviewed eight cases during November and December 2011.

League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission: No report provided. The LMHRC 40th Annual Conference and dinner celebration was on Friday, December 2, 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

Acting Chair Monteiro shares that a new commissioner orientation will be scheduled from 5 to 6 pm preceding the next Full Commission meeting. It is agreed by consensus that the commissioner orientation and full commission meeting should be changed to the fourth Monday of next month, January 23, 2012, due to the MLK day holiday on the third Monday on next month.

Postpone Commission Officer elections to the February 2012 meeting of the full commission, moved Rodriquez-Melendez, second Obereutter; Discussion; Close debate and call for vote, Moved Gallagher, second Rodgriquez-Melendez; Motion Approved.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment at 7:10 PM: Moved Fukuda; Second Gallagher; Passed.