

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

DECEMBER 4, 2009

A meeting of the Commission for Human Rights was held in the agency conference room on Friday, December 4, 2009. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Alton Wiley, Jr., Nancy Kolman Ventrone and Dr. John Susa. Absent were Iraida Williams and Alberto Aponte Cardona. Commissioner Lee arrived at 9:50 am and Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson arrived at 10:15 am. Commissioner Dr. Susa, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ventrone to approve the minutes of October 30, 2009. The motion to approve was seconded by Commissioner Wiley and carried.

Status Report: Michael D. Évora, Executive Director

A written report was handed out. All new information is in bold print. The Director reported that the holiday party is being held at the Down City Diner on Weybosset Street at 5pm on December 11, 2009.

Case Production Report – Attached

Aged Case Report - Attached

Outreach Report - Attached

STATUS REPORT - COMMISSIONERS-

GENERAL STATUS:

The Chairperson, Dr. Susa, stated that the Commissioners need to come up with alternative times for the Commissioner meeting to be held.

OUTREACH: No outreach reported at this time.

Commissioner Meeting -2- December 4, 2009

STATUS REPORT - LEGAL COUNSEL by Cynthia M. Hiatt and Frances Gaschen

LITIGATION: Report Attached

LEGISLATION:

REGULATIONS: No report at this time.

HEARING SCHEDULE: Discussed

DECISIONS: Commissioners Wiley, Lee and Ventrone discussed motions in a case in which a hearing is pending. They decided to grant a motion to compel and the motion to amend. A written decision will issue.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next regular meeting will be January 29, 2010 at 9:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael D. Évora
Executive Director

Notes taken by: B. Ross
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 4, 2009

I. BUDGET

S = State/General Revenue; F = Federal (EEOC/HUD); T = Total

FY 2010 FY 2010 FY 2010 FY 2011

(Request) (Enacted) (Revised) (Request)

S 868,444 1,016,242 951,019 1,052,721

F 406,615 408,505 363,826 400,268

T 1,275,059 1,424,747 1,314,845 1,452,989

The Commission's Revised FY 2010 and FY 2011 Budget Proposals were submitted to the Budget Office/Governor on October 23. Please see me if you would like a full copy of the budget submission.

II. FEDERAL CONTRACTS

EEOC – For federal FY 2009 (ending 9/30/09), according to EEOC Project Director Marlene Toribio, we have closed 26 co-filed cases for FY 2010 (beginning October 1, 2009). We do not yet have our EEOC contract for the fiscal year.

HUD – For FY 10, according to HUD Project Director Angela Lovegrove, we have taken in 20 new housing charges, 15 of which are co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we have processed 21 housing charges, 20 of which were co-filed with HUD.

III. PERSONNEL

The revised FY 2010 and FY 2011 budget proposals request that the 0.5 Sr. Compliance Officer position recently vacated by Tina Christy remain unfilled in order to meet the Budget Office's revenue target. Our Budget Analyst has advised that this position may actually be cut from the Commission's budget.

Frank Gaschen has relocated his office to Susan Gardner's former office and Tina Christy has relocated to Frank's former office. This relocation will leave the two caucus rooms adjacent to the Hearing Room free for use by parties attending PDCs, hearings, etc.

IV. OUTREACH – Refer to attached report

V. GENERAL STATUS

●Meetings with staff members – I continue to meet with individual investigative staff members on a monthly basis to monitor case production.

●Case Closures – Refer to attached report.

●Aged Cases – Refer to attached report.

●Overall Case Inventory – The Commission had over 1000

cases in its inventory at the end of FY 98. We ended FY 09 with approximately 325 cases in inventory. As of 11/16/09, we had a total of 354 cases in inventory; 49 of those cases were pending assignment. (On 11/17/09, 30 of the pending cases were assigned to investigative staff.)

●EEOC Funding: On October 5, I contacted the DC offices of Senators Reed and Whitehouse urging them to vote in favor of HR 2847, a bill which would restore approximately \$4 million in funding to FEPAs nationwide. I also followed up with faxed letters to each of the Senators. The Senate has yet to take action on this bill, which passed the House.

On November 12, I received a message from a member of Senator Reed's staff who advised that the funding bill had passed the Senate. He further apologized for the delay in responding to my letter(s), indicating that it "didn't make its way through" in a timely manner.

●EEOC Regional FEPA Conference: On October 22, Marlene Toribio, Allison Cote and I attended the regional conference in Boston. We were advised that our FY 2010 contract likely will be for the same (reduced) amount as our FY 2009 contract.

●Annual Report – Susan Pracht has been working on the FY 2009 Annual Report along with Cynthia, Frank and me. I expect to have a final version by the end of the year.

●Commission Gift Policy – In accordance with Dr. Susa’s request at April’s Commission meeting, Summer Legal Intern John Bogue researched and drafted language to be considered by the Commissioners in establishing a gift policy for the Commission. The proposed policy, which includes options to be reviewed and decided by the Commissioners, will be distributed to day (and mailed to those Commissioners not present) to facilitate discussion/decision at the next Commissioners’ meeting.

●Railing for Hearing Room – On November 25, I faxed a letter to Dorwest/Capstone (landlord) in respect to Commissioner Ventrone’s request for a railing for the ramp leading up to the bench/witness chair in the Hearing Room. On December 1, Paul Greisinger stopped by the office to assess the ramp. He has agreed to have Capstone’s architect come in to view the ramp and draft plans for a railing.

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael D. Évora
Executive Director**

Attachments