

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

DECEMBER 13, 2013

A meeting of the Commission for Human Rights was held on Friday, December 13, 2013 in the agency conference room. Present at the meeting were Commissioners John B. Susa, Chair, Iraida Williams, Camille Vella-Wilkinson. Absent were Commissioners Alberto Aponte Cardona, Esq., and Nancy Kolman Ventrone. The meeting commenced at 9:40 a.m. Alton W. Wiley, Jr., and Rochelle Bates Lee arrived at 10:25

A Motion to approve the minutes of November 22, 2013 was made by Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried.

Status Report of Michael D. Évora, Executive Director

A written report was handed out. All new information is in bold print.

Case Production Report – Attached

Aged Case Report – No aged cases to report.

Outreach Report – Attached

STATUS REPORT – COMMISSIONERS

GENERAL STATUS: The Commissioners are continuing to serve while waiting for information on Commissioner Re-appointments.

Commissioner Meeting -2- December 13, 2013

OUTREACH: Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson reported that she participated in a rally for a \$15 per hour living wage for the fast food establishments on December 5, 2013.

STATUS REPORT – LEGAL COUNSEL: report given by the Executive Director Michael D. Evora

LITIGATION: Director Evora and the Commissioners discussed Pending litigation in which the Commission has a role. Report attached all new information in bold

LEGISLATION: A motion was made by Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson to approve the language in the amendments to the Fair Employment Practices Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried.

REGULATIONS: The hearing date for the Public Hearing to amend the Fair Housing Regulations will be January 17, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

DECISIONS: No discussion held on hearings

Commissioner Meeting -3- December 13, 2013

STATUS OF HEARING CASES/HEARING SCHEDULE: Discussed

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next regular meeting will be on

Friday, January 17, 2014, directly following the public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael D. Évora

Executive Director

Notes taken by B. Ross

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS**

13 December 2013

I. BUDGET

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

	FY 2014	FY 2014	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015
	(Recomm.)	(Enacted)	(Rev.Req.)	(Unconstr.)	(Constr.)
S	1,150,785	1,150,785	1,150,785	1,184,229	1,095,286
F	308,638	308,638	318,987	303,788	318,035
T	1,459,423	1,459,423	1,469,772	1,488,017	1,413,321

The Commission's FY 14 (Revised) and FY 15 (Proposed) Budgets were submitted to the Governor on September 11. The submission included a Budget Impact Statement detailing the consequences to be realized should the seven percent general revenue decrease requested of all state agencies be implemented for the Commission [see Constrained Budget above].

II. FEDERAL CONTRACTS

EEOC – For federal FY 2012 (beginning October 1, 2011), according to EEOC Project Director Marlene Toribio, we closed 237 co-filed cases.

Our contract with EEOC for FY 2012 was for 235 cases. For federal FY 2013 (beginning October 1, 2012), we closed 201 co-filed cases. Our contract with EEOC for FY13 was for 199 cases. For federal FY14 (beginning October 1, 2013), we have closed 35 co-filed cases; our contract is as yet unknown.

HUD – For FY12, according to HUD Project Director Angela Lovegrove, we took in 40 new housing charges, 37 of which were co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we processed 45 housing charges, 43 of which were co-filed with HUD. For FY13 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013), we took in 51 new housing charges, all of which were co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we processed 50 cases, 47 of which were co-filed with HUD. For FY14 (beginning July 1, 2013), we have taken in 18 new housing charges, 17 of which are co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we have processed 24 cases, 23 of which were co-filed with HUD.

HUD APPROVES TWO PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS – The Commission recently was advised that HUD approved our applications for Partnership Funds for two fair housing projects. The first grant, for approximately \$56,000, is for a targeted outreach (including development of training/education materials) to the LGBT community and victims of domestic violence. The second grant, for

\$2,650.00, will be used to plan and conduct a seminar on mortgage lending discrimination and predatory lending in the month of April 2014; the event will be open to the public with invitations to groups including the RI Association of Realtors and local financial institutions. We await a formal contract amendment from HUD to access the funds to begin implementation of these projects.

III. PERSONNEL

No new information.

IV. OUTREACH – Refer to attached report.

V. GENERAL STATUS

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

●Case Closures – Refer to attached report.

We ended FY 2012 slightly behind the prior fiscal year's case processing rate. In FY 2011, we processed 422 cases; in FY 2012, we processed 411 cases (approx. 3.5% decrease). For FY13, we processed 389 cases (approx. 5% decrease from FY12). For FY14 (beginning July 1, 2013), we have processed 139 cases (compare to 153 cases in this same time period in FY13).

●Aged Cases – There are no aged cases in the Commission’s inventory for federal fiscal year 2014 (beginning October 1, 2013).

●Overall Case Inventory – The Commission had over 1000 cases in its inventory at the end of FY 1998. We ended FY11 with 323 cases in inventory, FY12 with 255 cases, and FY13 with 265 cases. As of 12/11/13, we had a total of 281 cases in inventory; none of these cases is pending assignment.

●Performance Management Initiative – On July 16, I met with the Governor’s Performance Management Team to discuss the Commission’s agreed-upon performance goals. The Team noted that the Commission is one of the only state agencies that consistently complies with the Performance Management Directive in a complete/timely manner. These meetings will occur quarterly.

●Annual Report – The Commission’s FY13 Annual Report has been completed and sent to the printer.

●Racial Profiling Prevention – Beginning on September 4, I have been meeting bi-weekly with a group of law enforcement and community representatives in an effort to review the Comprehensive Racial Profiling Prevention Act (tentatively renamed the Comprehensive Community-Police Relationship Act). Meetings will occur through the end of December with the goal of identifying

language for a 2014 bill on which both sides can agree.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Évora

Executive Director

Attachments