

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

May 30, 2014

A regular meeting of the Commission for Human Rights was held on Friday, May 30, 2014. Present at the meeting were Commissioners John B. Susa, Chair, Nancy Kolman Ventrone, Iraida Williams and Rochelle Bates Lee. Absent were Commissioners Alberto Aponte Cardona, Esq., Camille Vella-Wilkinson and Alton W. Wiley, Jr., Esq. The meeting commenced at 10:20 a.m.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lee 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 Executive Director, Michael Evora has been contacted by the Governor's office. The Governor is planning to appoint two new Commissioners to the Commission.

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OUTREACH: No outreach to report at this time.

STATUS REPORT – LEGAL COUNSEL: by Cynthia M. Hiatt and Francis Gaschen

LITIGATION: Counsel and the Commissioners reviewed pending

litigation in which the Commission has a role. Report attached.

LEGISLATION: Counsel and the Commissioners reviewed legislation relating to the Commission and civil rights.

REGULATIONS: The new regulations mandated by HUD relating to processing of housing discrimination charges has been filed with the Secretary of State.

BFOQ request from URI: The hearing is scheduled for July 30, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the agency's Hearing Room.

DECISIONS: No discussion at this time.

STATUS OF HEARING CASES/HEARING SCHEDULE: Discussed

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The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next regular meeting is Friday, June 27, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Michael D. Évora
Executive Director**

**Notes taken by B. Ross
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS**

30 May 2014

I. BUDGET

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

	FY 2014	FY 2014	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2015
	(Enacted)	(Rev.Req.)	(Gov. Rec.)	(Unconstr.)	(Constr.)	(Recomm.)
S	1,150,785	1,150,785	1,146,066	1,184,229	1,095,286	1,193,083
F	308,638	318,987	317,367	303,788	318,035	287,096
T	1,459,423	1,469,772	1,463,433	1,488,017	1,413,321	1,480,179

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].

The Governor has submitted his formal recommendation in respect to the Commission's FY 2014 budget, as noted above. In addition, he has submitted an FY 2015 recommended budget to the General Assembly. That budget, noted above, would fund the Commission at an unconstrained level for FY 2015 and would provide funding for the Commission's current staffing of 14.5 FTEs.

The Commission's FY14 and FY15 budgets were heard by the House Finance Subcommittee on General Government on March 5. I

presented an overview of the Commission's accomplishments in FY13. Chairperson Rep. Ferri congratulated the Commission on its receipt of the two HUD Partnership Grants, and he and Rep. Valencia commended the Commission on its success in decreasing both the case backlog and the time it takes to process cases.

On March 10, Rep. Ferri and Nobel Jeudy, House Fiscal Analyst, toured the Commission's facility.

I submitted the Commission's FY 2014 Third Quarter Report to the state Budget Office on April 16. The Commission projected a slight surplus (\$4,719) in General Revenue and a slight deficit (\$11,520) in Federal Revenue, for an overall projected deficit at the close of FY 2014 of \$6,801.

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 128 co-filed cases. Our

contract for FY14 is for 244 cases; we must close an additional 128 cases by September 30 to meet our contract.

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 41 new housing charges, 39 of which are co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we have processed 42 cases, 41 of which were co-filed with HUD (three of these processed cases were post-PC conciliations).

UPDATE ON HUD PARTNERSHIP GRANTS – 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. On March 17, former Investigator Susan Pracht began a nine-month position as Community Liaison Specialist overseeing the implementation of the LGBT/Domestic Violence grant.

The second grant, for \$2,650.00, was used to plan and conduct a seminar on mortgage discrimination and predatory lending on April 7 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Newport; the event was attended by 32 individuals from RI and MA, including several representatives from HUD.

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 FY 13, we processed 389 cases (approx. 5% decrease from FY 12). For FY14 (beginning July 1, 2013), we have processed 298 cases (compare to 315 cases in this same time period in FY 13).

●Aged Cases – There are no aged cases in the Commission's inventory for federal FY 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 5/29/14, we had a total of 303 cases in inventory; 26 of these cases were pending assignment.

●Performance Management Initiative – The Governor’s Performance Management Team has noted that the Commission is one of the only state agencies that consistently complies with the Performance Management Directive in a complete/timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Évora

Executive Director

Attachments