



**HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 5, 2019**

A meeting of the Human Rights Commission was held at 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Council Chambers, 405 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux City, IA 51101.

**Commissioners Present**

Julie Berens  
Mary Day  
Charlotte Gorter  
Chris Jensen  
Richard Moore  
Billy Oyardare  
Steele Welcher  
Tracy Winters

**Commissioners Absent**

Don Scarlett (excused)  
Nia Key (resigned)  
Robert Stewart (excused)

**Staff Present**

Karen Mackey  
Sharon Holder  
Jessica Ryan  
Connie Anstey (Legal)

**Staff Absent**

Lynn Zerschling (excused)  
Izamar Carrillo (excused)  
Tani Russell (excused)  
Haley Hines (excused)

1. Roll call

Meeting was called to order by Julie Berens, Interim Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the August 1, 2019 meeting.

Ms. Berens moved to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2019 meetings; Ms. Day seconded. All voted in favor.

3. Closed Session

Ms. Day moved to go into closed session of the Commission to review or discuss records which are required or authorized by Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) or (f) or federal law to be kept confidential. Mr. Moore seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Day moved to return to open session, Mr. Moore seconded. All voted in favor

After returning to open session, Ms. Winters moved to accept the conciliation agreement in Case 11-1472; Mr. Jensen seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore moved to accept staff's No Probable Cause finding recommendation, in Case 11-1489; Ms. Day seconded. All voted in favor.

4. Upcoming Events

- a. Human Trafficking Forum (Monday, September 23, 2019)

Ms. Mackey shared that an event in partnership with the Siouxland Coalition to End Human Trafficking, a forum will be held to discuss human trafficking on Monday, September 23, 2019 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Sioux City Public Museum. The forum will feature a presenter from Omaha and will have child care for attendees that may need it. Pre-registration will be needed to assess the need for volunteers to oversee the childcare area. Any other assistive services will need to be requested in advance. Ms. Day shared that the focus of the event will be social media and geared toward parents and families.

#### 5. Staff reports

A copy of the Directors' report was included in the monthly packet.

Ms. Mackey advised the commission on the need to add source of income or payment as a protected class status. Amending the ordinance to add that protection would help one of the most common barriers that Section 8 recipients face in trying to obtain housing. Many recipients have expressed difficulty in finding safe, clean, affordable housing that would be willing to accept their housing voucher. Other communities have been successful in adding source of income or payment as well as Veteran status to their ordinances. Once an amendment to the ordinance is approved, it would also need to be approved by HUD.

#### 6. Old Business

Ms. Anstey stated that she presented oral arguments in a previously discussed discrimination case. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission submitted an amicus brief as well. The court seemed receptive. A decision is expected in the next 4-6 months.

The annual review committee completed its assessment. Copies were distributed at the beginning of the meeting. If there are any changes, additions or corrections please submit them to Jessica prior to September 13, 2019.

#### 7. New Business

The annual report will be shared at next month's meeting.

Ms. Berens asked for nominations for Commission Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Day nominated Mr. Welcher for Chair. Mr. Welcher declined the nomination. Ms. Winters nominated Ms. Berens for Chair. Ms. Day seconded. Mr. Moore moved that nominations cease and Ms. Berens be appointed by acclamation. Ms. Day seconded. All voted in favor. No nays or abstentions.

Ms. Berens nominated Mr. Welcher for Vice Chair. Ms. Day seconded. Mr. Moore moved that nominations cease and Mr. Welcher be appointed by acclamation. Ms. Winters seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed or abstained.

Mr. Moore congratulated Ms. Mackey on receiving an inaugural LGBTQ Legacy Leader Award.

Ms. Mackey shared that Nia Key resigned from the commission. Ms. Mackey is hopeful that a new commissioner would be appointed quickly as there have been several interested applicants.

Ms. Day invited everyone to attend a Culture and Conversation event on Sunday, September 8, 2019 in the garden at Mary Treglia.

8. Citizen concerns

None.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Ryan, Administrative Secretary