

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2021 AT 9:30AM
CONFERENCE CALL**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Deborah Cook, Guadalupe Gamboa, James Mohr, and Jeff Sbaih.

Staff: Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Sharon James, Assistant Attorney General; Jerry Lee, Operations Manager; Selene Garcia, Customer Service Specialist 2; and Deborah Gonzales, Commission Clerk.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Cook chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:30A.M.

MEETING MINUTES

The May 27, 2021 Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Commissioner Sbaih motioned to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Mohr seconded the motion.

CASE CLOSURES

The following case was pulled prior to the meeting.

Tento, Bertrand v. I-5 AUTO GROUP, INC.

Commissioner Mohr motioned to approve the cases for closure. Commissioner Sbaih seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTING

Executive Director Ortiz discussed an issue that was reported in the Seattle Times surrounding a pride event charging a "reparations fee" for admission only to Caucasians. A complaint had been filed with the Human Rights Commission. Director Ortiz contacted the Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR), who also received complaints regarding the same event, to discuss how best to handle these complaints. It was decided that the complaint would be deferred to the SOCR.

The 2020-2021 fiscal year contract with the U.S. Housing & Urban Development ends on June 30th, and the housing investigative team did an excellent job. The team closed over 100 cases earning the agency additional administrative funds.

Director Ortiz is also in the process of reviewing applications for Civil Rights Investigator 1. The agency is looking to hire an investigator for the Yakima office.

The agency recently held an All-Staff meeting via conference call. The meeting covered training for new laws, and provided agency updates.

Director Ortiz is planning to travel to Yakima to meet with the Farmworker Unit regarding processing farmworker cases. She will also be meeting with Chair Cook in Clarkston to discuss plans for recruiting a new Executive Director.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Commissioner Gamboa had a meeting with the Coalition for Farmworkers to End Sexual Harassment. They finally received the funding necessary to begin training and other various projects.

Commissioner Sbaih is working with others who are putting together a discussion about red-lining, and some of the historical impacts that presently still exist. He is planning on discussing options available for anyone who believes they have been discriminated against, and how the Human Rights Commission may be able to assist.

AAG UPDATE

Assistant Attorney Sharon James has returned to be the agency's primary AAG.

2021 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

July 29, 2021:	Via Conference Call
August 26, 2021:	Via Conference Call
September 23, 2021:	Via Conference Call
October 28, 2021:	Via Conference Call
November 2021:	TBD
December 2021:	TBD

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:49A.M.

Respectfully submitted by,
Deborah Gonzales