

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING  
JUNE 26, 2014 @ 9:30AM  
711 S. CAPITOL WAY, SUITE 402  
OLYMPIA, WA 98504**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commissioners:** Steve Hunt, Chair; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong, Commissioner; Shawn Murinko, Commissioner.

**Staff:** Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Asst. Director; Stacia Hollar, AAG; Morgan Damerow, AAG; Dianna Wilks, Admin. Svs. Mgr; Laura Skinner, Commission Clerk; Laura Lindstrand, Policy Analyst.

**Guests:** Kim Triplett-Kolerich, Ret. State Patrol; Callie Sechrist, OSPI.

**OPENING AND WELCOME**

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Strong made motion to adopt May 22, 2014 meeting minutes; Commissioner Henderson seconds; motion carried.

**AAG UPDATES**

AAG Hollar introduced Morgan Damerow, AAG for the Commission.

AAG Damerow explained his role with the Commission and what he would be looking into on behalf of the Commission.

AAG Hollar provided update regarding police searching cell phones without warrant; current case regarding this, waiting for determination.

**CASE CLOSURES**

There were five additional cases submitted to the Commissioners for review; brief break for Commissioners to review the cases.

Director Ortiz stated a technical assistance letter will be sent to Respondent in the case of Sammy Reese v. Silverwood Terrace Apartments.

Chair Hunt suggested approving cases in three different groups to include the amendment to Reese v. Silverwood Terrace Apts., the additional four housing cases and then the remainder of cases.

Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve Reese v. Silverwood Terrace Apts; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve Spears v. Woodmark Apts, Lee v. Woodmark Apts, Campos v. Windsor Crossing and Gilsing v. Waterstone Townhomes; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve remainder of cases; Commissioner Henderson seconds; motion carried.

#### **BUDGET REPORT, DIANNA WILKS**

Admin. Svs. Mgr. Wilks provided budge update to the Commissioners; Governor asking for an additional 15% cut.

Director Ortiz invited Commissioner to attend meetings with legislator's and Governor staff to discuss budget concerns.

#### **ED REPORT**

Director Ortiz stated we currently have 75-80 cases on back log; 103 cases closed for HUD; already met EEOC contract.

Asst. Director Strobert stated 785 cases on contract, could absorb 200 more, preparing upward modification request.

Director Ortiz informed Commissions we lost our prosecuting attorney, Sharon James; Complainant, Mary Gossard finally received her settlement check for \$10,000.00 after 8 years.

Director Ortiz stated she met with Alexis Oliver and Governor's office for event on Civil Rights Act anniversary; met with Mike Kreidler and Bob Ferguson to create letter to insurance companies that they must cover same sex marriages.

Director Ortiz and Asst. Director Strobert attended HUD conference; visited youth center in Tacoma; MOU with Tacoma Human Rights to include conflict of interest cases; HRC is a sponsor of the NW African American Museum event on July 10<sup>th</sup> Civil Rights Act; Investigator, Art Gutierrez, has been invited to the radio program.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTING**

Commissioner Murinko attended CAPP presentation.

Commissioner Strong spoke at Equal Conference, not on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Henderson was unable to do much because of work load; attended fair housing; spoke with Rep. Sawyer regarding service animals, was receptive; still working on youth presentation with Commissioner Strong goal to have finished next week; will be attending meeting next week with the Africa American Affairs.

Chair Hunt thanked Commissioner Henderson and Strong for their hard work on the youth presentation; met with Alex, no new news regarding upward modification.

## **INITIATED COMMISSION COMPLAINT, SHAWN MURINKO**

Commissioner Murinko encountered a business in Tumwater, no ramp to get into business, talked with owner but felt she didn't understand his concerns.

Director Ortiz stated there are two options; Commissioner Murinko file a complaint or the Commission could file the complaint.

AAG Hollar asked if there is another option short of filing a complaint such as sending a technical assistance letter.

Chair Hunt asked Commissioner Murinko if he talked to management; Commissioner Murinko stated not favorable, business brought up cost of ramp.

Chair Hunt asked Commissioner Murinko if he was willing to file a complaint; Commissioner Murinko stated no because it's more of a perception issue of him filing on since he is a Commissioner.

Commissioner Strong stated without more detail we can't really vote.

Director Ortiz brought up exception for older buildings.

Commissioner Murinko stated safe harbor rule, but since it is a place of public accommodation they must provide access but could be wrong.

Chair Hunt asked AAG Hollar if we went and viewed and wrote a technical assistance letter, could be file later?

AAG Hollar confirmed yes a complaint could be filed later.

Commissioner Henderson suggested a strongly worded technical assistance letter.

Director Ortiz agreed and stated we need not to be afraid of filing complaints.

AAG Hollar and Director Ortiz will visit business and write a technical assistance letter.

**Break @ 10:40AM**  
**Resume @ 10:55AM**

### **SAFETY PRESENTATION, KIM TRIPLETT-KOLERICH**

Kim Triplett-Kolerich presented presentation on work place safety; provided safety concerns and ideas to handle them; comment on having a recorder, peep hole in conference room door, key cards is most optional not only for keeping unwanted persons out but also can tell who is here if an issue arises, lockers and video recordings of all interviews; would like to be involved in policy updates; would like to see communication between floors of the building; stair chair or safe space for wheelchairs, consult with building owner, same with signage.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commission will move into Executive Session:

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(i), the Commission shall deliberate in closed session at 11:30AM regarding matters and reconvene on the record at approximately 11:50AM. Upon reconvening, the public may return and the Commission shall take final action on these quasi-judicial matters on the record, if necessary.

Executive session extended to 12:10PM, another extension until 12:30PM.

**Lunch Break @ 12:30PM**  
**Resume meeting at @ 1:00PM**

### **FOLLOW UP: RULE MAKING**

Policy Analyst Lindstrand provided overview of Rule Making, where we are at and the next steps.

### **FOLLOW UP: CITY OF SPOKANE JOB RECRUITMENT RESPONSE**

Director Ortiz and Commissioners discussed the positive response received from the City of Spokane regarding the technical assistance letter sent to them.

### **JULY COMMISSION MEETING PLANNING – SPOKANE**

Director Ortiz stated she and Commissioner Murinko will send out invites to public officials and possible presenters; discussed presenting the youth presentation and press releases and public announcements; secured location at the Gonzaga Law School.

**UPDATE ON YOUTH EDUCATION PRESENTATION, CLARENCE  
HENDERSON**

Commissioner Henderson informed Director Ortiz and other Commissioners he and Commissioner Strong are working on it and hope to have it finished by next week; have ready to go by the Spokane public forum.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL  
RIGHTS ACT**

Commissioners and Director Ortiz agreed to make minor revisions; Commissioners to sign the Resolution and post on website.

**SEATTLE CIVIL RIGHTS CELEBRATION JULY 10, 2014**

Director Ortiz informed Commissioners of the Seattle Civil Rights Celebration on July 10<sup>th</sup>; invited them to attend.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner  
Commission Clerk