

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, May 23, 2013 AT 9:30AM

Seattle Office For Civil Rights

Central Building, Smith Conference Room

810 Third Avenue, Suite 750

Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Commissioners:** Stephen Hunt, Chair; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong Commissioner; Shawn Murinko; Commissioner; Deborah Lee, Commissioner.

**Staff:** Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Asst. Director; Laura Skinner, Exec. Asst; Stacia Hollar, AAG; Christina Higgins, Specialist; Idolina Reta, Specialist.

**OPENING AND WELCOME**

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:37AM.

**MINUTES**

April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes; Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

**CASE CLOSURES**

Commissioner Murinko abstains from cases Abu-Selah v. WA ST DOT and Prill v. WA ST DOT; Commissioner Lee abstains from cases Wilson v. Boeing and O'Block v. Seattle Public Schools; Commissioner Henderson abstains from Hartford v. Pierce County Library Outreach Services.

Chair Hunt calls for a motion to approve cases with no abstentions; Commissioner Lee made motion; Commissioner Murinko seconds, motion carried.

Cases with abstentions, Abu-Selah v. WA ST DOT and Prill v. WA ST DOT; Commissioner Strong made motion; Commissioner Henderson seconds; motion carried.

Cases with abstentions, Wilson v. Boeing and O'Block v. Seattle Public Schools; Commissioner Murinko made motion; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Case with abstention, Hartford v. Pierce County Library Outreach Services; Commissioner Lee made motion; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

## **ED REPORT**

Director Ortiz went over the budget cut from EEOC; discussed with Commissioners the effects on daily operations, utilizing free office space with WA ST Dept of L&I, looking to further partnership; AAG Hollar mentions legal point consideration with other organizations.

**Break at 9:50AM**

**Resumed meeting at 9:52AM**

Specialist Reta brought in four students for "bring your kids to work day", Jose, Antonio, Louis and Anthony; introduced students to Commissioners and went over their agenda for the day.

Chair Hunt asked other guests to introduce themselves; Alejandra Gonza, Commissioner with the Seattle Human Rights Commission and Beatrice Clark, Complainant.

## **ED REPORT CONTINUED**

Director Ortiz stated the service animal bill is done; will continue to work on it again for next year's session; was on panel for the Hispanic Affairs Commission in Mattawa on April 19<sup>th</sup>, panel consists of various individuals and explained how the meeting was conducted; attended the TERO Spring Conference in Swinomish with Chair Hunt; visited and worked at the Spokane office; hosted the FHIP/FHAP meeting, resourceful and good partnerships; continuing to broadcast on Spanish radio throughout state Juanita Soto, Specialist, conducting outreach in Eastern WA, going well.

Director Ortiz provided update on litigation cases, Gossard v. Tafoya, Krueger v. Bowlero Lanes and two new housing cases which are based on familial status; also budget update, provided print out for Commissioners to review.

Chair Hunt asked Commissioners to move public comment up; Commissioners agreed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beatrice Clark, Complainant addressed the Commissioners regarding the investigation of her complaint and her complaint against Director Ortiz.

Commissioners asked Ms. Clark discussed issues with investigation, length of time it took to complete the investigation and lack of communication with investigator; discussed reconsideration process.

Commissioners and Ms. Clark discussed complaint she wants to file against Director Ortiz, miscommunication; Commissioners assured Ms. Clark they will address the complaint today and will follow up with her regarding a remedy.

**Break at 10:39AM**

**Resume meeting at 10:53AM**

Steve Baumgarten, Complainant addressed the Commission regarding several complaints he has filed with HRC; discussed reconsideration process.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTING**

**Commissioner Murinko:** Spoke about Governor Inslee signing an executive order to increase the hiring of persons with disabilities, starting with state agencies to model for private employers; attended the National ADA Symposium conference in San Antonio, TX; provided update on the Olmstead regarding HUD providing assistance.

**Commissioner Lee:** Ongoing issues with Seattle public schools, spent a lot of time there last month; next month attending the United Nations conference in New York.

**Commissioner Strong:** On May 22<sup>nd</sup> the storm water abatement held dedication in honor of Kate, a memorial garden; working on public forum for this evening.

**Commissioner Henderson:** informal outreach in community; attended the African American Leadership.

**Chair Hunt:** Attended the TERO Spring conference with Director Ortiz.

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

**Commissioner Travel:** Commissioners and Director Ortiz discussed travel policy and rules; setting aside certain \$ amount for travel per Commissioner once budget is in place.

**Commission Meeting Dates and Locations:** Commissioners and Director Ortiz decided the September will be a conference call; October meeting will be in person in Olympia; Commission meeting in November conference call on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>; Commission meeting in December conference call on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Director Ortiz discussed locations for January and February 2014; January in Tacoma; February in Olympia.

**Yakima Public Hearing Report:** Commissioners reviewed draft report from Commissioner Murinko from the Public Forum held on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve; Commissioner Strong seconded; motion carried.

Director Ortiz will put on letter head and on website; Commissioners discussed doing more outreach and education in Eastern WA; speak at schools, etc.; discussed issues regarding agricultural workers and

housing and hosting more forums in the community; spoke about changing law making it mandatory to post WLAD posters in all languages; Commissioners will work with Laura Lindstrand, Policy Analyst regarding law and postings.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Director Ortiz provided a handout to Commissioners with questions; will discuss strategic planning further at next month's meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Hunt calls executive session at 11:59AM for 30 minutes; pursuant 42.30.1100(1)(i), discuss with legal counsel representing agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is likely to become a party and under 42.30.110(1)(j), to evaluate complaints brought against a public employee.

Executive Session ended at 12:33PM.

AAG Hollar speaks about case law update, on May 7<sup>th</sup> case in Supreme Court, Ockletree v. Providence Health Care Services; under definition employer, religion; skepticism whether religious rights unconstitutional statute.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:39PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner  
Commission Clerk