



City of Albuquerque - Office of Civil Rights
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City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, January 19, 2023 starting at 3:00 pm (MST)
Location: Zoom
Contact: Crystal Velarde, 505-768-4544

Board Members Present:

Beckham Rivera
Leticia Trujillo
Beverly McMillan
Samia Assed
Larry Hinojos Jr.
Mario Del Ángel

City Staff Present

Antonia Romero, Board Attorney
Lucia Moran, Assistant City Attorney, Office of Civil Rights
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator Office of Civil Rights
Michelle Melendez, Office of Equity and Inclusion Director
Nicole Sanchez, Managing Assistant City Attorney

Members of the Public

David Walsh

Guest Speakers

Bill Wagner, Executive Director
Gema Gonzalez, Outreach Coordinator/Public Ally
Diana Ordóñez-Bencomo, Case Management Supervisor

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Trujillo at 3:06 pm.
- II. Introductions**
 - a. All who were present introduced themselves.
- III. Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Vice Chair McMillan moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Rivera. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2022**
 - a. Member Rivera moved to approve the November 17, 2022, minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair McMillian. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- V. Public Comment**
 - a. Mr. Walsh shared his concerns regarding lack of city services. Director Melendez shared a list of city resources her office has compiled.
- VI. Presentation from Centro Sávila**
 - a. Centro Sávila is a non-profit organization with three locations. One in the South Valley and two in the International District. They provide culturally and linguistically relevant services. Many staff members are bilingual speaking Spanish, Dari, Pasto and Arabic. Centro Sávila provides services to their community members with people who speak their language and can relate to their experiences. More information can be found on their website at <https://www.centrosavila.org/home/services/>

- b. Centro Sávilá provides case management services, therapy and assistance with benefits enrollment.
- c. The case management services include:
 - i. Behavioral Health Initiative from the county, which funds their Critical Intervention Time for their youth program. The youth program serves children 11 years of age and older.
 - ii. Adults Peer Program, which was created to assist people struggling with substance abuse and are in the process of recovery.
 - iii. Pathways Program, which assists with unsheltered people who need a lot of different resources.
 - iv. The adult programs have a case worker at the Winter Wellness Hotel on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anyone who is at the hotel is required to engage with the case workers and set housing goals.
- d. Therapy:
 - i. Support groups offered include a women's group, grief group and Strengthening Families. Strengthening Families is a group for families with juveniles who wish to create better communication. They also provide child care for younger siblings.
 - ii. Can assist with crisis calls Monday thru Friday.
 - iii. Referrals can be made on their website or by phone.
- e. Benefits enrollment assists people with obtaining health insurance. About 75% of people who Centro Sávilá serves do not have health insurance. They are currently working with Strong Families to get the word out that they can assist with this.
- f. Centro Sávilá also works with other organizations like New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, and Roadrunner food bank.

VII. Director's Report

- a. **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)**
 - i. A report was sent out prior to the meeting for the members to review. It included statistics for the period of November 12, 2022, to January 12, 2023, as well as events planned by the office.
 - ii. OCR has handled 74 new matters since our last meeting. The types of discrimination are as follows:
 - 1. Public accommodation – 7 matters
 - 2. Employment – 8 matters
 - 3. Housing – 45 matters
 - 4. Other – 14 matters
 - iii. OCR provided updates on proactive enforcement methods as well as recently closed matters and pending matters.
 - iv. Outreach included:
 - 1. Ongoing - Attending bi-monthly Albuquerque Affordable Housing Coalition meetings to provide input on discriminatory housing practices.
 - 2. Ongoing – Member of the International Municipal Attorneys Association Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.
 - 3. Attending International Municipal Lawyers Association Homelessness working group call
 - 4. 11/14/22 – Provided a fair housing training to close matter 22-002.

5. 11/18/22 – OCR co-hosted and presented on SOI at the 40th Anniversary Virtual Lunch & Learn with the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association.

a. 38 people attended & we had 5 presenters. All of the attendees who participated in our survey stated they learned something new and would recommend our training to others.

6. 11/29/22 – SOI presented to Albuquerque Housing Authority

v. Upcoming

1. 01/18/23: SOI presentation for Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless staff

2. 01/30/23: OCR's new director is scheduled to start

a. **Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI)**

1. Director Melendez apologized for not having a report but recapped OEI's events from last year as well as what they are currently working on.

I. OEI is working on keeping the zero fares for transit. It was deferred in the last City Council meeting, and should remain until the end of this calendar year.

II. Completed an assessment that looked at home ownership in Albuquerque and how to close the racial wealth gap. The assessment showed that Native Americans and African Americans are far less likely to own the homes they live in.

I. Due to this assessment the Mayor will include home ownership and closing the racial wealth gap as part of his housing forward initiative.

III. They are also talking to the Mayor about signing an executive order similar to the one the Biden administration signed called Justice 40.

I. Justice 40 provides 40% of federal funds to communities that are underfunded. These funds are for housing or transportation.

II. The executive order for Albuquerque will also include a stakeholder committee to review grants the city needs to apply for and, a new contractor for OEI to oversee the program.

IV. Office of Black Community Engagement

I. Applied for and received the Opportunity Accelerator.

I. This created the Black Engagement Steering Committee. Their goal is to have 41 new black homeowners in Albuquerque.

II. Participated in the MLK March as well as the MLK Dream weekend.

III. Currently planning for Black history month as well as Juneteenth.

V. Office of Native American Affairs

I. Participated in the Inauguration for the Navajo Nation President and Council, in Window Rock. She is the 1st female president and the youngest president to serve. They also have their 1st female Vice-President. One third

of the Council are females which is also a new historical moment.

- II. Assisting in the design of the Gateway Center to make sure it addresses Native American's needs.
- III. In conversations on what should become of the 4H Park burial site. Out of respect for those involved the city will not discuss details at this time.
- VI. Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
 - I. Will soon publish a refugee welcome guide in 6 languages.
 - II. Is working with many community-based organizations to provide hospitality for asylum seekers.
 - III. Training on how to create a safe place after the murders of 4 Muslim men.
 - IV. Training for city employees on how to increase their relationship, communication and collaboration with the Muslim community.
- VII. Culture Change leader
 - I. Working with the Albuquerque Fire and Recue department as well as security at the Gateway center regarding profiling and biases.
 - II. Working on providing trainings to city departments regarding language access.

VIII. Outreach Subcommittee Report

- a. The Board discussed getting volunteers to assist with the sub-committees. They will discuss this matter further at their next meeting.

IX. Announcements

- a. Laundry of Love is a direct service of United Way that offers free laundry on the second Thursday of each month. These services are currently offered at Arroyo Services Lavanderia on Broadway.
 - i. Volunteers collect some data. This includes:
 - 1. How many people live in the household?
 - 2. How many children under the age of 18 live in the household?
 - 3. What zip code they live in?
 - ii. Libros For Kids also holds a read-to-me program for the kids while their parents do their laundry.
- b. Member Rivera informed the Board he has accepted the Director position with the Office of Civil Rights.

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was called adjourned by Chair Trujillo at 4:15 p.m.



Leticia Trujillo, Chair

2/16/22
Date