

City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board (HRB) Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom & Legal West Conference Room 1

Board Members Present:

Anami Dass, Chair
Larry Hinojos Jr.
Kimberly Andujo (via Zoom)
Samia Assed

City Staff Present:

Lisa Schatz-Vance, Board Attorney
Jennifer Lucero, Minute Taker

Board Members Not Present:

Leticia Galvez-Trujillo
Sean “Jack” Champagne, Vice Chair

Members of the Public:

Mervyn Tilden
Joanna Lucero
Betty Rice
Paula Barteau
Lee Shepherd

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m. by Chair Dass.

II. Introductions

- a. All who were present introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Member Hinojos Jr. moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Assed. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of Previous Meetings’ Minutes

- a. **November 16, 2023 Minutes as Amended on January 18, 2024**
 - i. Member Assed moved to approve the November 16, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Hinojos Jr. Other board members unanimously approved the motion.
- b. **December 6, 2023 Minutes as Amended on January 18, 2024**
 - i. Member Andujo moved to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Assed. Other board members unanimously approved the motion.
- c. **January 18, 2024, Minutes**

- i. Member Hinojos Jr. moved to approve the January 18, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Andujo. Other board members unanimously approved the motion.

V. Public Comment

- a. Mervyn Tilden came to speak on behalf of himself, his partner Joanna Lucero, and his partner's mother Betty Rice who uses a walker and has narcolepsy. Mr. Tilden shared their home they are renting has flooding potential, a water heater pressing against wood frame, house is very cold, no insulation in crawling space under the house, as well as wires and pipes hanging in crawl space. He gave the landowner an eleven-page document of issues of the home needed to be fixed. Landowner sealed the home twice but home is still cold. Landowner told him not to go under the crawl space anymore until it has been investigated but Mr. Tilden stated he continued to do so. He stated he left messages and emails to HRB attorney Brian Moore and Councilor Nicole Rodgers but has not heard back. Chair Dass states she has a complaint form she is willing to give to Mr. Tilden and his family and can help them fill it out.
 - i. Joanna Lucero shared they leave the home temperature at 72 degrees but then moves it up to 74 or 76 degrees because the home is still cold. The home is heated by the New Mexico Gas Company. She stated the landowner told them the previous renters had no problems and were obese.
 - ii. Betty Rice shared they had to buy space heaters to heat the home.
- b. Paula Barteau commented she does outreach work with undocumented children in Albuquerque. Ms. Barteau stated in 2020 she was told by a Solid Waste worker, "They will rob you in your sleep" and witnessed the worker throwing away belongings. She shared that tents, mattresses, social security cards, bikes, pets, and other personal items were taken away during the sweeps of unhoused people. The sweeps that occurred the week prior included an urn of a loved one.
- c. Lee Shepherd commented they serve on the mental health subcommittee. Mx. Shepherd stated that they previously ran COVID isolation centers. Mx. Shepherd shared that they have been homeless in the past. They help navigate people who experience homelessness. They stated the injunction filed against the City of Albuquerque for removal of property belonging to people who are experiencing homelessness has not been effective since sweeps are still happening as recent as today. Mx. Shepherd shared they are willing to leave their email address to provide the board a list of issues and evidence. Mx. Shepherd would like the board to pass both proposals.

VI. Discuss & Vote on Resolutions

- a. **Vote on Proposed Resolution 2024-01: Rebuilding Trust Between People Experiencing Homelessness and the City of Albuquerque**
 - i. Motion is moved by Member Assed. The motion is seconded by Member Hinojos Jr. Other board members unanimously approved the motion. Motion is passed.
 - ii. Member Andujo states line 96 of the resolution has a repeat word grammatical error.
 - iii. Chair Dass moved to amend the resolution to remove grammatical error. All other board members unanimously approved amended resolution.

- iv. Mr. Tilden suggested the resolution should not only focus on the unhoused people but also focus on preventive measures. Chair Dass responded that there is no budget with which to address prevention.

b. Vote on Proposed Resolution 2024-02: Ceasefire in Gaza

- i. Member Assed stated she is Palestinian and would like to thank the board for this resolution.
- ii. Motion is moved by Chair Dass. The motion is seconded by Member Hinojos Jr. Other board members unanimously approved the motion. Motion is passed.

VII. Director's Report

a. Office of Civil Rights (OCR)

- i. There was no report to share from the Office of Civil Rights.

b. Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI)

- i. The Office of Equity and Inclusion intends to report to the Human Rights Board on a quarterly basis.

VIII. Announcements

- a. No other business to discuss.

IX. Administrative Tasks

- a. There were no administrative tasks discussed.

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned by Member Hinojos Jr. at 5:56 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled Human Rights Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 21, 2024.



Anami Dass, Chair

4/18/24

Date



Mari Kempton, Board Parliamentarian

4/18/24

Date

(Adopted by the Board on March 21, 2024) (Amended by the Board on April 18, 2024)