



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

Date/Time: Thursday, November 16, 2023 starting at 5:00 pm (MST)
Location: Zoom & Legal West Conference Room 1

Board Members Present:

Leticia Galvez-Trujillo, Chair
Beverly McMillan, Vice-Chair
Anami Dass
Larry Hinojos Jr.
Samia Assed
Jack Sean Champagne

City Staff Present

Michelle Melendez, Director, Office of Equity & Inclusion
Antonia Romero, Board Attorney
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator Office of Civil Rights

Members of the Public

Ilse Biel
Elena Dunn

Board Members Not Present

Kimberly Andujo

I. Welcome and Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Galvez-Trujillo at 5:04 pm.

II. Introductions

- a. All Board members and staff members 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 Minutes from October 19, 2023

- a. Vice-Chair McMillan moved to approve the October 19, 2023, minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Dass. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

V. Public Comment

- a. Ilse Biel asked the Board to create a bill of rights that will assist people living outdoors. At a minimum, have the city acknowledge they are human bodies that require the necessary space to exist. Ilse Biel also shared a small packet with the Board. This packet included a letter to the Board, a copy of Right to Rest Model Legislation Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign (Right to Rest Act 2018), and the Memorandum Opinion and Order Granting in part Plaintiffs' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction in case no. D-202-CV-2022-07562, filed 9/21/23.

VI. Discuss and vote on Resolution for 2024

- a. Members discussed continuing the schedule they currently have. This means meeting once a month January through November from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. However, they would like to explore having their meetings in a different location more accessible to the public. This agenda item was tabled and will be set for a special meeting prior to the end of the year.

VII. Vote on Board Leaders

- a. Chair
 - i. Member Dass stated she would like to run for Chair.
 - ii. Member Hinojos Jr. moved to have Member Dass as Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Member Assed. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- b. Vice-Chair
 - i. Member Champagne stated he would like to run for Vice-Chair.
 - ii. Member Assed moved to have Member Champagne as Vice-Chair for 2024. Member Hinojos Jr. seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

VIII. Review and Edit HRB Guidelines/Procedures

- a. Ms. Romero explained the process the City requires for Boards and Commissions to adopt rules. These include the Board requesting that the CAO appoint a city employee to serve as a hearing officer. The hearing office would conduct a public hearing allowing members of the public to provide input on the rules being adopted. Once the hearing is complete the hearing officer would submit a report to the Board Chair. There also needs to be a 14-day notice provided to the public as well as the rules being available for review prior to the hearing. The notice and rules will be posted online as well as at the City Clerks Office.
- b. Member Champagne moved to adopt the rules as written to be presented to the public. Member Dass seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

IX. Report out for Subcommittees

- a. Housing Financial Literacy
 - i. Vice-Chair McMillian had logged off before being able to provide an update.
- b. Mental Health
 - i. Resolution 23-001 was signed by Chair Galvez-Trujillo.
- c. Language Accessibility
 - i. Member Andujo was not present to provide an update.
- d. Outreach
 - i. Starting in January of 2024 the Board will start holding listening sessions for the public. They are hoping to host these meetings quarterly and throughout the city.

- ii. Chair Galvez-Trujillo is working on providing Thanksgiving dinners to unsheltered individuals. One big barrier is there is no place for these individuals to cook a turkey.
- iii. Working with other organizations who can host Thanksgiving dinner and getting the word out.
- iv. Board members would like to work on putting a holiday dinner together next year. It's too short of notice to do it this year.

X. Director's Report

a. Office of Civil Rights (OCR)

- i. A report was sent to the Board prior to the meeting for the members to review. It included statistics for the period of August 14, 2023, to November 13, 2023, as well as events planned by the office and case updates.
- ii. Outreach included:
 - 1. Ongoing - Attending bi-monthly Albuquerque Affordable Housing Coalition meetings to provide input on discriminatory housing practices.
 - 2. Attending monthly Pro Bono meeting.
 - 3. Working with the media resources team on the SOI educational video.
 - 4. Working with the Housing legislative sub-group.
- iii. Chair Galvez-Trujillo shared Director Beckham Rivera was no longer with the Office of Civil Rights.

b. Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI)

- i. Director Melendez shared her FY24 1st quarter report with the Board. She will be providing these reports quarterly to the Board.
 - 1. The city as a whole spent \$9,485 on language access.
 - 2. OEI had 22 trainings for city employees.
 - 3. 18 summits, fairs or events OEI tabled at, sponsored or organized.
 - 4. Received 139 calls, with 74 being referred out.
 - 5. Assisting asylum seekers passing through.
 - a. OEI is working with Vice-Chair McMillian on providing shelter for asylum seekers.
- ii. City Council passed a Cannabis Equity Reinvestment Fund Ordinance.
 - 1. Member Hinojos Jr. was part of the cannabis equity working group. That group made recommendations for the ordinance.
 - 2. Cannabis sales generates about \$3 million in funds which will go to the community reinvestment fund.
- iii. OEI is part of Strong Cities Network, they are a global network of cities dedicated to addressing all forms of hate, extremism and polarization. OEI will work with the New Mexico Attorney General's office to schedule trainings on addressing hate crimes.

- iv. Celebrated the 3rd annual Native American Heritage month at the Convention Center. There were over 1,000 people in attendance.
- v. Upcoming events
 - 1. December 4, 2023, Justice 40 Oversight Committee is holding an input session on the city's priority climate action plan at the International District Library.
 - 2. December 5, 2023, the US Attorney's office is holding a webinar titled United Against Hate from 6-8 pm.
 - 3. In January there will be a day of racial healing.

XI. Announcements

- a. Chair Galvez-Trujillo was elected President of the National Organization MANA. MANA will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in Washington, DC. Chair Galvez-Trujillo, will be on zoom more next year due to her new elected position.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned by Chair Galvez-Trujillo at 6:52 pm.

Signed Minutes Available by Request

Leticia Galvez-Trujillo, Chair

Date