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IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
CHRIS COURNOYER, LT. GOVERNOR

Friday, January 17, 2025 1:15p.m.
Pilot Knob Conference Room
6200 Park Ave., Des Moines, IA 50321

Approved Minutes

I. Roll Call Commissioners (Chair Ordaz, Vice Chair White, Secretary Kooiker, DeKock, Elsloo)

a. Recognition of Agency Leadership *1:18 pm: Present – DeKock, Elsloo, Kooiker. Ordaz chaired the meeting by zoom. White not present. Director Kristen Stiffler present. Kaitlin Smith and Fred Sinkevech on Zoom.*

II. Approval of Minutes from December 20, 2024. *Motion by DeKock, 2nd by Elsoo to approve. Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Acceptance of Agenda. *Motion by DeKock, 2nd by Elsoo to approve. Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Public Comment (oral or written) – pursuant to public decorum rules adopted on August 16, 2024, public comment shall be limited to four minutes. *None*

V. AG Update. *Kaitie Fiala no longer with AG's office, is now with the Office of Civil Rights as lead of the Housing Division. There will be someone else assigned, this has not been determined.*

VI. Director's update. *Legislative session has begun, working on a tracking log of Civil Rights issues. Commissioners invited to Capital on April 29 for booth, celebrating 60th anniversary of ICRA.*

VII. Timeframe for appeals, potential recommendation for change to the ICRA for HUD cases for 365 rather than 300 days. ***Follow-up from December 20 discussion.*** *Stiffler said best time for this is in the fall, there has been a significant increase in the number of overall cases. A fiscal note would be required if a bill was introduced. Since housing is merged with other types of cases in the 300 day time frame of 216.12a, it would have to be separated out in legislation rather than a simple number change.*

Motion by Kooiker, 2nd by DeKock to table until May meeting and create a section on the agenda called 216.5A3 – Powers and Duties on the agenda, and add this to that section to be revisited then. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Strategic Planning. (from August 16, September 20, October 18, November 6, November 22 and December 20)

a. Commissioner Don DeKock – updates on legislator meetings *Coming to Des Moines on 1/22 to meet with legislators.*

b. Continued discussion on mission and goals; consideration of mission statement (amendments possible at meeting):

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is dedicated to upholding justice and fairness by thoroughly reviewing appeals related to civil rights violations. We strive to ensure that every case is evaluated with integrity, transparency, and respect for all individuals involved.

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Minutes of 1/17/25: By consensus, DeKock to assist instead of Ordaz due to her schedule. Scheduling to proceed after White's return on 1/24.

X. Commissioners' Reports

a. Commissioner Don DeKock – Lobbyist *DeKock asked about discrimination issues raised by AI. Stiffler discussed the legal realm v data analytics realm.*
b. Commissioner Cheryl Elsloo *None*
c. Commissioner Sam Kooiker – Secretary *None*
d. Commissioner Marcie Ordaz – Chair *Ordaz said she plans to not reapply for a 3rd term this year. She was thanked for her service.*
e. Commissioner Holly White – Vice Chair *Not present.*

XI. Next Meeting – February 21, 2025.

XII. Adjournment *Motion by DeKock, 2nd by Elsloo to adjourn. Carried unanimously, 2:32 pm.*

Any person needing special assistance or with accessibility needs should contact the Iowa Office of Civil Rights at 515-281-4121 or icrc@iowa.gov.

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Signed by:
Sam Kooiker
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9/12/2025