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IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
CHRIS COURNOYER, LT. GOVERNOR

Friday, March 21, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
Ledges 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 *Ordaz called to order at 1:34 pm. All five commissioners present, with Kooiker and Ordaz by Zoom. Kristen Stiffler, Kaitlin Smith were staff members present. Fred Sinkevich from staff on Zoom.*

II. Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2025. *Motion by White, seconded by DeKock with amendment to add "During Chapter 1 review as part of EO10, the Agency and Commission will remain in communication about changes.", Approved unanimously.*

III. Acceptance of Agenda. *Motion by White, seconded by Elsloo. Approved 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 – Assistant Director Andrew Greenberg – written report *Report was submitted in writing. Discussion on backfilling of Katie Fiala's former role at AG's office. Kooiker left the meeting at 1:49 pm.*

VI. Director's update – Kristen Stiffler

a. Update on legislation the Agency has weighed in on/is tracking. *Agency not weighing in on bills, but providing fiscal notes as requested.*
b. Other. *Preparation for Tuesday morning, April 29 for 60th anniversary of ICRA, east side of rotunda.*
c. Update about new appointments. *Reappoints of Holly White and Sam Kooiker, new appointment of Jack Baumann (Quad Cities area) pending.*

VII. Update on Legislative Session and consider possible positions on the following Legislation: SF208, SF234, SF113 / HSB 84, SF288, SF318, SF335, HF891, HSB212, HF269 / SF282, HF709. *Various bills were discussed.*

VIII. Powers & Duties – Policy recommendations:

a. Added 1/17/25: Timeframe for appeals, potential recommendation for change to the ICRA for HUD cases for 365 rather than 300 days. Follow-up planned for May 16, 2025 meeting. *Considered under 216.5a to be discussed in May.*

IX. Vote on the Mission Statement: *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.*
Motion by Elsloo, 2nd by DeKock to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

X. Discussion and Adoption of Roles and Responsibilities

- Commissioner
- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Liaison (Lobbyist)

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Introduced by White. Additional changes pending, discussion on compliance with Chapter 216 and additional review prior to being considered for a vote.

XI. Discussion and Adoption of Action by Board / Legislative Items

- Yes/No Support
- Formal Letters
- Formal Appearance
- Discussing Issues with Legislators

Consensus is that additional review needed, will be considered at the next meeting.

XII. Commissioners' Reports

a. Commissioner Don DeKock – Liaison (Lobbyist) *No report.*
b. Commissioner Cheryl Elsloo *No report.*
c. Commissioner Sam Kooiker – Secretary *Kooiker rejoined at 3:02 pm. No report.*
d. Commissioner Marcie Ordaz – Chair *No report.*
e. Commissioner Holly White – Vice Chair *Came in early today and reviewed a file.*

XIII. Next Meeting – April 25, 2025 at 1:15 pm.

XIV. Adjournment *Motion by DeKock second by Elsloo to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.*

Signed by:
Sam Kooiker
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9/12/2025