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IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
CHRIS COURNOYER, LT. GOVERNOR

Friday, August 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Ledges Conference Room
6200 Park Ave., Des Moines, IA 50321

Adopted minutes (approved 9/19/25)

I. Roll Call Commissioners (Vice Chair White, Secretary Kooiker, DeKock, Elsloo, Baumann)
a. Recognition of Agency Leadership ***Called to order by White at 2:01 pm. All present. Others: Kaitlin Smith from the Agency.***

II. Acceptance of Agenda. ***Motion by DeKock, 2nd by Elsloo.*** *Ayes: Unanimous.*

III. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2025. ***Motion by DeKock, 2nd by Elsloo.*** *Ayes: Unanimous.*

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. Commissioners' Reports *All Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Baumann aboard during this time.*
a. Commissioner Don DeKock *No report.*
b. Commissioner Cheryl Elsloo *No report.*
c. Commissioner Sam Kooiker *No report.*
d. Commissioner Jack Baumann *Gave introduction.*
e. Commissioner Holly White *No report.*

VI. Iowa Public Information Board open meetings and records training. ***Commissioners were reminded by Vice Chair White to take the training as soon as it can be signed up for. Trainings currently full.***

VII. Officer elections. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Legislative Liaison.
Options include nominations this month and elections next month, or elections today.
Motion by Kooiker, 2nd by White to nominate DeKock at Legislative Liaison. Ayes: Unanimous.
Motion by DeKock, 2nd White to nominate Elsloo as Secretary. Ayes: Unanimous.
Motion by DeKock, 2nd by Kooiker to nominate White as Vice Chair. Ayes: Unanimous.
Motion by White, 2nd by DeKock to nominate Kooiker as Chair. Ayes: Unanimous.

VIII. Director's update – Kristen Stiffler. *Not available to attend. No report.*

IX. AG Update (written report). *No report.*

X. 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 August 8, 2025, meeting. *Kooiker gave some background on the item and recommended continuation. Recommend to table to next meeting by consensus. No motion made.*

XI. Discussion and Adoption of Action by Commission / Legislative Items (from March 21 & April 25).
- Yes/No Support
- Formal Letters
- Formal Appearance

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- Discussing Issues with Legislators

White recommended that the Commission establish that the Commission desires to be involved. White said there should be a process in place for guidelines for interacting. She motioned to approve the document, 2nd by DeKock. DeKock clarified this is meant to be a process, not hard and fast policy or rules. Ayes: Unanimous.

The pending document is continued by consensus to the next meeting for further discussion and further edits / review.

XII. Review of recently finished Legislative Session and preview of active legislation. *DeKock provided by a brief review.*

XIII. Service Animals (item from Commissioner White). *White discussed her involvement in the Puppy Jake foundation and asked if there was interest in discussing this further. De Kock concurred. Kooiker mentioned HF615 which recently passed. By consensus there was agreement to proceed with an invitation by White of Puppy Jake Foundation or other interested parties.*

XIV. Next Meeting – September 19, 2025, at 1:15 pm. *Frequency of meetings was discussed. For now it will be monthly, but may change in the future.*

XV. Adjournment *Motion by DeKock to adjourn, 2nd by Elsloo. Ayes: All Adjourned at 3:04 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.

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. (Adopted March 21, 2025)

Signed by:
Sam Kooiker
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10/9/2025