

# MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 18, 2011

**Minneapolis City Hall**

**350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Room 241**

**Minneapolis, MN**

6:05 Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance:

Scott Flaherty, Lonnie Nichols, John Oberreuter, Michelle Monteiro, Sonja Peterson, Michael McHugh, Adosh Unni, Bernadette Casey, Emily J. Froehle, Jennifer Thompson, Patricia Nelson, Joshua Williams, Surya Rochel, Thomas Gallagher

Commissioners Absent:

Marla Kahn, Andrew Hauer, Cecelia Rodriguez-Melendez

City Staff:

Velma Korbel, Johnnie Burns, Caroline Bachun, Monica Diaz, Sherman Patterson

**Guests:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved Nelson, Second Unni, Approved with acceptance of amendment moved by Peterson and seconded by Rochel

**Approval of March 21, 2011 MCCR minutes as amended:** Moved by Chair Flaherty and Approved with inclusion of amendment moved by Peterson and seconded by Froehle to clarify that the Standards & Procedure Committee will assist department staff with amendments to the civil rights ordinance rather than review of the civil rights ordinance.

## **Civil Rights Department Reports:**

Director Velma Korbel provides report on No Probable Cause and Dismissals, indicating that there was currently 35 cases pending and noting that the backlog of cases was down to 60 from 216 in September 2010. Korbel clarified that any case over 365 days old is deemed to be in the backlog and that her birthday is on April 15. She introduces Johnnie Burns.

Johnnie Burns, Assistant Director provides a PowerPoint on the Contract Compliance division of the Civil Rights Department. Highlights include that there are currently 61 active construction projects for an estimated \$212,136,108.00; the City's combined minority goal is 11% with actual of 17.7%, and; the City's female goal is 6% with 4.65% actual.

## **Report: Change on Somalia Event**

Sonja Peterson distributed materials and reported that “Neighbors for Nations” provided a program at City Hall on April 13, 2011, that was well attended and served as a town hall meeting to facilitate better connections with the Somali community.

## **Appeals Committee**

Chair Flaherty introduces the topic and provides a hand-out to frame a discussion of options on how to best the structure an Appeals Committee. Williams moves, Peterson second to suspend the rules to allow discussion, motion passes and discussion occurs.

Williams moves, Peterson second, motion passes to adopt proposal A (Appeals committee structure of single 3-members and alternate(s) on staggered, rotational terms appointed by the Commission Chair) with an appeal panel (i.e. committee) that may be composed of two attorneys, but at least one non-attorney.

## **Commission on Civil Rights Committee Reports:**

**Contract Compliance:** discussed contract compliance presentation to the full commission and the Riverside Plaza project

**Public Relations and Education:** discussed activities to pursue beyond the MLK essay competition, for example, a segment on KFAI radio on Civil Rights in Minneapolis

**Standards and Procedures:** Next meeting is June 13th at 5:30 PM after the Executive Committee meeting.

**League of Human Rights Commission:** Announcement that substantial cuts (50-65% of current budget) are being discussed/proposed to the MN Human Rights Commission at the State Legislature. Commissioners are provided a hand-out on how to get involved.

## **Commission on Civil Rights Chairperson's report:**

Roberts Rules Handout is presented and Flaherty announces Velma Korbel is a 2011 Honoree and distributes invitations to the Fifth Annual Ambassador Awards in St. Paul on May 3, 2011

**New Business:** An adhoc amendments committee has been formed and Commissioners will be sent its composition via email. The annual report of the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee will be presented at City Hall on May 4, 2011 at 1:30 PM.

**Public Comment:** None

**Call for Adjournment at 7:35 PM:** Moved Williams; Second Nelson, Motion Passed.