



MISSION: The mission of the Rock Island Human Rights commission is to bring about greater public awareness of the ethnic and cultural diversity that exists within the community and to ensure that all humans are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, religion, age, or disability.

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Thursday, November 21 @ 5:00 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

630 Martin Luther King Drive, Rock Island, IL 61201

<u>Commission Members Present:</u>	<u>Commission Members Absent:</u>	<u>Staff Present:</u>	<u>Public Present:</u>
David Levin, Chair Steve Andich Ashley Allen Smith Linda Barnes Gregg Hampton Margie Mejia-Carabella Phillip Rotman Keenan Wilson	Monta Ponsetto Vincent G. Thomas	Jerry Jones	N/A

Meeting Minutes

- **AGENDA ITEM #1** – Called to Order at 5:01pm by David Levin
- **AGENDA ITEM #2** – Public Comment – none
- **AGENDA ITEM #3** – Approval of Minutes from October meeting - Motion to approve Margie, seconded by Linda
- **AGENDA ITEM #4** – Old Business
 - **Investigation 102-2024-AA**
 - Lyss Chiampi was originally assigned to this case but withdrew from the Commission. Phillip took over the case for her.
 - Phillip and Linda made an appointment to meet with their complainant but the person did not show up.
 - **Investigation 100-2024-BA**
 - Keenen said he spoke with the defendant (complainant's former employer) who said there were no records of past work complaints

against the complainant. Keenen said the defendant hires a diverse staff and there is not an established pattern of firing minorities.

- Based on their investigation, Gregg and Keenen felt that the validity of the complaint was not probable. They proposed closing the investigation, but retaining the notes from the case for future reference if another issue arises with that particular employer.

- **Training**

- When discussing Lyss's departure, there was a conversation about training and if everyone felt it's sufficient. Some Commission members said they understood Lyss's complaint. The Commission discussed potentially providing online training. David and Gregg said they would look for curricula to share with the group.
- Linda shared that she reads past cases to learn how cases have been handled - the group agreed this is good advice.
- Gregg and Keenen proposed conducting mock interviews to practice our investigation skills. The group was receptive to this idea.

- **AGENDA ITEM #5 – New Business**

- The Commission approved keeping the meeting schedule as the third Thursday of every month at 5pm for 2025. Phil motioned to approve, Margie seconded.

- **AGENDA ITEM #6 – Commissioner Comments**

- Tanner Payton to be voted in the Commission at City Council on November 25.
- Jerry said we could potentially lose two members, so he encouraged the group to consider people who may be interested in joining. David proposed Isaac Carr with ICAIR as a possible member.

- **AGENDA ITEM #7 – Adjourn at 5:27pm, moved by David and seconded by Margie.**

NEXT MEETING: December 19, 2024 at 630 Martin Luther King Dr. Rock Island, IL 61201 at 5pm

The Rock Island Human Rights Commission meets the third Thursday of each month.