

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Tuesday, July 9, 2024; 12:00 PM

Virtual Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84869608008?pwd=MUhuMUNSUUnp4WIZndk9tbXZiMIY1UT09>

AMID CONCERNS ABOUT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, AS AN ONGOING MITIGATION MEASURE, IN COMPLIANCE WITH CDC RECOMMENDATIONS, THE COMMISSION WILL HOST ITS NEXT MONTHLY MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR JULY 9, 2024, AT NOON THROUGH A VIRTUAL FORMAT. THIS ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19. THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS, VISITORS, CUSTOMERS AND OUR STAFF AT THE DAVENPORT CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION IS ALWAYS A TOP PRIORITY. IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT WE HAVE TAKEN THIS STEP TO MITIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP TO ATTEND OUR NEXT MEETING, PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING - YOU WILL FIND THE LINK IN THE AGENDA UNDER ROLL CALL. AFTER REGISTERING, YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE MEETING.

I. Roll Call

Virtual Via

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II. Approval of Agenda

III. Director's Report

A. June 2024 Director's Report

B. June 2024 Case Status Report

IV. New Business

A. Resolution of Brenda Drew-Peebles

V. Old Business

VI. Public Comment and Presentation

VII. Adjourn

VIII. Next Meeting

City of Davenport
Civil Rights Commission

Department: Civil Rights
Contact Info: |
Subject:
June 2024 Director's Report

Action / Date
7/9/2024

Attachments:

1. June 2024 Directors Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE DAVENPORT CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION FOR June 2024

I. CASE STATUS

1. No "right to sue" letters were issued in the month of June.
2. One housing case settled in conciliation in the month of June, this case involved allegations of disability discrimination involving discriminatory statements. The case settled for monetary damages in the amount of \$1,000.00, satisfaction of a pending collection action and relief in the public interest.

II. OTHER ACTIVITY

1. Director completed case processing documentation.
2. Director received the FOIA results for PRR-52-2024, however the results for PRR-149-2024 & PRR-171-2024 were incomplete. We are currently awaiting further Iowa Public Information Board's (IPIB) update regarding 24FC0017. This complaint, involving the City of Davenport's refusal to produce records pursuant to Iowa Code §22.2(1) in PRR-52-2024, was accepted by the IPIB on March 21, 2024. The subsequently denied FOIAs (PRR-149-2024 & PRR-171-2024) were added to this complaint. The city's initial refusal seemed to be based upon the city attorney's analysis on the perceived relevancy of the information, as the Commission was issued a denial letter stating, "Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record." Iowa Code § 22.2(1). The purpose of a records request is not relevant." The subsequent denial was based upon the Assistant City Attorney's assessment that the FOIA requests were too similar to others submitted by members of the public. Upon receiving notification from IPIB that the two subsequent denials (PRR-149-2024 & PRR-171-2024) were being reviewed with the denial for PRR-52-2024, the city's outside counsel advised that they would be fulfilled, however there would be a charge for fulfilling the request for the Commission. We paid a \$40 deposit and an additional \$40 for staff time, however the documents received did not match the request and the W2s were all unlawfully redacted. We had not received an updated version as of 6/30/2024.
3. Director worked on pre-hearing preparation.
4. Director continued to monitor COVID-19 rates and its impact on office functions.
5. Director worked on case resolution documents.
6. Director worked on litigation.
7. Director continues to monitor a possible issue involving DCRC witness intimidation and retaliation.
8. Director attended a League of Civil and Human Rights Agencies meeting.
9. Director met with city staff and to review office update options.
10. Director continued to follow up on the FY2024/25 budget requests. The p/t Investigator position was not changed to f/t, as city staff states that because they did not process the change that I requested in December 2023, they could not retroactively correct the harm for staff.
11. The Housing Analyst position has been added back to the budget to replace the Assistant Director position.
12. Director is working with DOJ CRS, Commissioners and members of the League of Iowa Civil and Human Rights Agencies to plan and schedule an upcoming training with the

League of Iowa Civil and Human Rights Agencies, the initial proposed date will have to be postponed, we are currently selecting new dates.

13. Director is working with DOJ CRS and Commissioners to set up a training for DCRC commissioners, there is a potential for the US Attorney to assist with this training as well.
14. Director continues to work on training related to the staffing realignment due to the forced departure of the Asst. Director/Housing Programs Manager.
15. Housing Analyst worked on housing investigations.
16. Housing Analyst worked on housing inquiries.
17. Housing Analyst worked on case resolutions.
18. Civil Rights Specialist worked on intakes.
19. Civil Rights Specialist worked on case investigations.
20. Civil Rights Specialist worked on case resolutions.
21. Housing Analyst and Administrative Assistant tabled for the agency at Juneteenth.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Ongoing discrimination, harassment and bullying of Commission staff.
 1. Retaliatory actions against Commission staff and further examples of different treatment.
2. Legal Department refusal to accept Commission referral.
3. Use of racial slurs in City Hall. City's failure to initiate complaint investigation.
4. Investigation of hostile working environment.
5. New refusal to fulfill records requests, continuing the pattern and practice of harassment from the city's legal department.
6. Continued refusal to process vacation correction, despite receiving their legal opinion which clearly indicates that the Commission's procedure for processing the correction was appropriate.
7. Constructive discharge of Commission employees.
8. Refusal to process personnel actions.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Upcoming Finance Meetings
2. Hiring two new full-time Investigators.

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Resolution of Brenda Drew-Peebles

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None

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