

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Tuesday, November 12, 2024; 12:00 PM

Virtual Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84869608008?pwd=MUhuMUNSUnp4WIZndk9tbXZiMIY1UT09>

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 NOVEMBER 12, 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 Zoom:

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II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

A. October 2024 Minutes

IV. Director's Report

A. October 2024 Case Status Report

B. October 2024 Director's Report

V. New Business

VI. Old Business

VII. Public Comment and Presentation

VIII. Adjourn

IX. Next Meeting

City of Davenport
Civil Rights Commission

Department: Civil Rights
Contact Info: |
Subject:
October 2024 Minutes

Action / Date
11/12/2024

Attachments:
None

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October 2024 Director's Report

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Attachments:

1. October 2024 Directors Report

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

I. CASE STATUS

1. No "right to sue" letters were issued in the month of October.
2. No cases settled in mediation in the month of October.

II. OTHER ACTIVITY

1. Director completed case processing documentation.
2. Director received an update on PRR-149-2024 & PRR-171-2024, these were the FOIA fulfillments which were incomplete from March/April 2024. These two items were added to the Iowa Public Information Board's (IPIB) action regarding 24FC0017. That complaint, involved the City of Davenport's refusal to produce records pursuant to Iowa Code §22.2(1) in PRR-52-2024, and it was accepted by the IPIB for enforcement on March 21, 2024. The subsequently denied FOIAs (PRR-149-2024 & PRR-171-2024) were added to this complaint, because the documents received did not match the request and the W2s were all unlawfully redacted. We received a document which did not contain the records requested, however IPIB decided that this was substantially sufficient, and did not take further action. At the October 17, IPIB meeting, the complaint was closed by the agency.
3. Director reviewed ordinance updates to adopt the 2021 International Building Code, 2021 International Fire Code, 2021 International Residential Code, the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code and the updates to the rental code. At the second reading, it was explained that there would be further amendments to the rental code section, which would be introduced in the final reading.
4. Director worked on pre-hearing preparation.
5. Director worked on post-hearing preparation.
6. Director worked on the finalization of the report articles relating to the environmental justice and housing equity.
7. Director worked on drafting a plan for upcoming outreach, education and efficiency initiatives.
8. Director continued to monitor COVID-19 rates and its impact on office functions.
9. Director worked on case resolution documents.
10. Director worked on litigation.
11. Director continued reviewing applications for new staff.
12. Director conducted new hire training with the new Civil Rights Specialist who started on October 14, 2024.
13. Director continues to monitor a possible issue involving DCRC witness intimidation and retaliation.
14. Director attended a League of Civil and Human Rights Agencies meeting.
15. Director continues to work on training related to the staffing realignment due to the forced departure of the Asst. Director/Housing Programs Manager.
16. Housing Analyst worked on housing investigations.
17. Housing Analyst worked on housing inquiries.
18. Housing Analyst worked on case resolutions.
19. Civil Rights Specialist attended onboarding training.
20. Civil Rights Specialist worked on case resolutions.

21. Civil Rights Specialist worked on updates for the complaint questionnaire.

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, still no findings nearly a year after the initiation of the investigation.
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. Council consideration of updates to the Building Code, Fire Code and Rental Code

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Hearing Officer's Proposed Decision - Review Meeting
2. Budget Meeting Monday November 18