

CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Second Floor, Veterans Memorial Building
20 December 2007

Commissioners and staff met for the special meeting of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission at 10:00 AM, Thursday, 20 December 2007, in the conference room, Civil Rights Commission office, 425 Second Street SE, Suite 960, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Commissioners Present: Mr. Roy Porterfield, Chair
Ms. Beth Freeman, Vice Chair
Ms. Miriam Amer
Ms. Janet Johnson
Mr. Kavi Parupally
Ms. Nancy Ziese

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Virgil Gooding
Mr. George Holmes
Mr. Momodu Kamara
Ms. Dolores Reisinger
Ms. Tara Youells

Staff Present: Mr. Kenneth White, Director
Ms. Michelle McMurray, Investigator
Ms. Christina Larsen, Staff Administrative Assistant

Guest: Mr. Len Sandler, University of Iowa
Ms. Michelle Croft, University of Iowa
Ms. Patty Meier, University of Iowa

Noting no quorum, Roy Porterfield, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Noting time constraints of Commissioners and guests, Roy Porterfield questioned if there were any objections to omitting this general business discussion until the next meeting. With no objections, discussion will be resumed at the next regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS CHAPTER 69 ORDINANCE

The guests each introduced themselves to the Commission noting their objective in this process was to streamline, update and make the ordinance easier to understand and follow.

The University presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission outlining their goals and suggested updates.

Roy noted that the Commission should attempt to use the language originally intended by state legislature.

Nancy Ziese noted that there could be considerable issues with bathrooms/lockerrooms and this area could use specific attention.

(Note: Janet Johnson arrived.)

Brief discussion over executive director's role in investigative findings and the roles of the Commissioners in those findings ensued. Further clarification in the language was requested in the suggested updates to paragraph 69.13.e.4 & 5. It was noted that several Commissioners preferred the current language in ordinance versus having executive director sign off on 'No Probable Cause' cases without Commissioner review.

Brief discussion of some basis not being covered in all areas or all areas being listed under all protections and why as well as what would be involved in making them all inclusive ensued.

(Note: Miriam Amer and Kavi Parupally left the meeting at approximately 11:15 AM.)

MISCELLANEOUS

The meeting adjourned by general agreement at 11:30 AM.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be at Noon, Wednesday, 23 January 2008, in the Civil Rights Commission office conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Larsen
Administrative Assistant III