

**CITY OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
MINUTES**

Thursday, December 8, 2022  
555 S 10th Street, 1st Floor  
City County Building, Council Chambers

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The December 8, 2022 meeting of the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Emira Ibrahimasic, Chair.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioners: Emira Ibrahimasic (Chair), Sheri Blok (Vice Chair), Kevin Abourezk, Haroon Al Hayder, Rose Godinez and John Goldrich.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioners: Alyssa Martin and Davetta Nelson.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Sara Houston, Rob Rowan, Chassidy Jackson-Goodwin, Marna Munn (remotely), Haefaa Hasan, Francisca Beltran and Shanna Eckman.

**APPROVAL OF November 17, 2022, MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Godinez and seconded by Goldrich to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022, meeting. Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimasic, Blok, Abourezk, Al Hayder, Godinez and Goldrich. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF November 30, 2022, MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Al Hayder and seconded by Blok to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2022, meeting. Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimasic, Blok, Abourezk, Al Hayder, Godinez and Goldrich. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF December 9, 2022, AGENDA:**

Ibrahimasic noted that the Public Hearing Determinations were removed from the agenda due to a lack of counsel physically present. A motion was made by Godinez and seconded by Goldrich to approve the meeting agenda.

Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimasic, Blok, Abourezk, Al Hayder, Godinez and Goldrich. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Outreach:**

FHIP Grant was submitted for 2023. MCA is finishing up and graduation will be on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Thuyhong has been going to the Asian Center and Malone Center regularly to work with the older Vietnamese population, as well as going to different pantries to help out.

CRC2023 is scheduled for April 2023.

The Asian Center is hosting a bazar this Saturday.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Director Report:**

There’s no update on potential new commissioners yet, we are still waiting on the Mayor’s office for selections.

Nominations for the Gerald Henderson award are due by February 22, 2023. Nominees will be presented to the Commission for a winner to be chosen, if there is no meeting due to a failuer to meet quorum, LCHR staff will make the determination. Though Commissioners cannot submit a nominee themselves, if you know of anyone who is interested in submitting a nominee here is the website:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYr4k8B62flq6mNfS7-4f5bRzbDR6fZldfLMw-bY0OX17Sxw/viewform>

After reviewing Title 11 regarding quorum, it has been clarified that if once quorum has been met to start the meeting, if a Commissioner needs to remove themselves due to a conflict of interest with a case, votes can still be made as long as there is a majority and the Commissioner is otherwise still available.

#### **CASE DISPOSITIONS:**

##### **LCHR # 22-0318-002-PA**

A motion was made by Ibrahimasic and seconded by Blok to recommend a finding of **no reasonable cause** on all allegations.

Ibrahimasic didn’t see any evidence that the Respondent denied accepting a 1099 from the Complainant. She noted that the Complainant went to the bank after they had closed her account, but if she had gone before it was closed, they would have been able to work with her.

Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimasic, Blok, Abourezk, Al Hayder and Goldrich. Godinez abstained. Motion carried.

#### **LCHR # 22-0325-001-H**

A motion was made by Ibrahimasic and seconded by Blok to recommend a finding of **no reasonable cause** on all allegations.

Blok wondered if there was a warning prior to the initial visit and following eviction notice; Investigator Rowan clarified that there was not.

Godinez asked if they were allowed to know the disability of the Complainant; Investigator Rowan did not specify the exact disability but noted that the alleged ESAs were for a mental disability not for a physical disability. There were some concerns that the Respondent potentially discriminated against the Complainant due to a disability regarding the hoarding, though it was mentioned that the state of the apartment presented other issues and hazards to other tenants.

Al Hayder didn't believe it was discrimination because the Respondent allowed the animals as pets while waiting for documentation that they were ESAs. Godinez noted that they accepted pets for others but seemed to not want to accept them for the Complainant even though they were paying for them; Investigator Rowan clarified that the Respondent let the Complainant have two pets, however the alleged ESAs would be two additional animals for a total of four animals in the apartment.

Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimasic asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Ibrahimasic, Blok, Abourezk, Al Hayder, Godinez and Goldrich. Motion carried.

#### **LCHR #22-0712-003-E-R**

A motion was made by Godinez and seconded by Blok to recommend a finding of **no reasonable cause** on all allegations.

For Godinez, that there were other employees corroborating the Complainant announcing that he was quitting weighed heavily towards no reasonable cause. Ibrahimasic asked when the alleged derogatory comments were made; Investigator Jackson-Goodwin stated that the Complainant said it happened on the second day in the lobby.

It was mentioned that the Respondent took the Complainant's complaint seriously and investigated the incident immediately.

Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimasic asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Ibrahimasic, Blok, Abourezk, Godinez and Goldrich. Al Hayder abstained. Motion carried.

**LCHR #22-0729-020-H**

A motion was made by Godinez and seconded by Al Hayder to recommend a finding of **reasonable cause** on all allegations.

Ibrahimpasic questioned how it would work if the Complainant didn't physically apply for the rental property. Munn stated that she believed apply didn't necessarily mean filling out an application, but that since the Complainant contacted the sole person in charge of the rental property, that qualified as "applying."

Ibrahimpasic noted that in general, it was disturbing how many landlords were not aware of the rental process and landlord/tenant rights. Investigator Rowan noted that there was a program available, RentWise, however it was not mandatory for landlords to participate in it.

Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimpasic asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Ibrahimpasic, Blok, Abourezk, Al Hayder, Godinez and Goldrich. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.  
555 S. 10th Street, 1st Floor, Council Chambers