

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

Thursday, March 30, 2023
555 S 10th Street, 1st Floor
City County Building, Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER:

The March 30, 2023 meeting of the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Emira Ibrahimpasic, Chair.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners: Emira Ibrahimpasic (Chair), Alyssa Martin (Vice Chair), Haroon Al Hayder, Sheri Blok, John Goldrich and Ryan Kelly.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioners: Sarah Cohen Walker, Rose Godinez and Davetta Nelson.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sara Houston, Rob Rowan, Marna Munn and Shanna Eckman.

APPROVAL OF February 23, 2023, MINUTES:

A motion was made by Blok and seconded by Martin to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023, meeting. Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimpasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimpasic, Martin, Al Hayder, Blok, Goldrich and Kelly. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF March 30, 2023, AGENDA:

A motion was made by Goldrich and seconded by Al Hayder to approve the agenda. Hearing no discussion, Ibrahimpasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimpasic, Martin, Al Hayder, Blok, Goldrich and Kelly. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outreach: The Civil Rights Conference is on April 19th. The Pre-Conference is on April 18th. LCHR is participating in a Day Without Shoes; there is a barrel near the office to collect gently used or new shoe donations.

Public Hearing Update: Raley v. Moseman the public hearing was conducted and briefs were submitted last week. The public hearing for Labat v. Rosecrans is scheduled for Monday.

There was a recommendation made by the hearing officer for the Steinhour v. Koenig and Bustamente v. Koenig by the hearing officer, this will be on the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Report: LCHR did not receive the FHIP grant that they applied for, but there is a secondary grant that LCHR will apply for.

Sara Houston announced her resignation effective in June 2023.

Noted for the record that Commissioner Cohen Walker arrived.

CASE DISPOSITIONS:

LCHR No.: 22-0902-023-H

A motion was made by Blok and seconded by Kelly to recommend a finding of **no reasonable cause** on the first allegation and **reasonable cause** on the second allegation.

Ibrahimpasic noted that the Respondent not allowing a few extra days for rent payment as a reasonable accommodation and therefore the accumulation of late fees created excessive stress on the Complainant. Due to consistently being a few days late that also prevented the Complainant from moving into a different apartment.

Hearing no further discussion, Ibrahimpasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimpasic, Martin, Al Hayder, Blok, Cohen Walker, Goldrich and Kelly. Motion carried.

LCHR No.: 22-1004-024-H

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

Both Goldrich and Ibrahimpasic commented on the excessive late fees. Martin questioned if there was a consistent late fee policy; Investigator Rowan noted that they consistently charged large amounts across the board.

Hearing no further discussion, Ibrahimpasic asked for the roll call. Voting “aye” were Ibrahimpasic, Martin, Al Hayder, Blok, Cohen Walker, Goldrich and Kelly. Motion carried.

LCHR No.: 22-1115-027-H

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

Blok questioned if that was the first time the Complainant was late and if they received a notice to vacate after just one occurrence; Investigator Rowan confirmed and also noted that the lease term was expired.

Ibrahimpasic asked what the Respondent's reason as for not renewing the lease; Investigator Rowan said initially the Respondent said they didn't have to give a reason for a non-renewal and then in a later interview they stated that due to the interaction with the Complainant and his insistence on getting "refunded" for rent provided by a Rental Assistance Program, they chose not to renew his lease.

Hearing no further discussion, Ibrahimpasic asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Ibrahimpasic, Martin, Blok, Cohen Walker, Goldrich and Kelly. Voting "no" was Al Hayder. Motion carried.

Pre-Determination Settlement**LCHR No.: 21-1014-021-H**

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

Hearing no further discussion, Ibrahimpasic asked for the roll call. Voting "aye" were Ibrahimpasic, Martin, Al Hayder, Blok, Cohen Walker, Goldrich and Kelly. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
555 S. 10th Street, 1st Floor, Council Chambers