

CITY OF PEORIA

FAIR EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

August 14th, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Sherry Carter-Allen called to order the regular meeting of the Fair Employment Commission at 4:45 pm on August 14, 2025 - Meeting Held in Room 110, Peoria City Hall.

Amelia Ohlrogge, as acting City of Peoria-Staff Liaison, conducted a roll call. The following people were present: Chair Sherry Carter-Allen; Vice Chair Carl Holloway; Commissioner Solivian Dismuke; Commissioner Ronald Ruffin; Not Present: Commissioners Brittany Strickland Commissioner Anupama Uddavolu (Excused). Resigned: Commissioner Denise Moore; **Quorum Established.**

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Chair Carter- Allen shares with the Commission that meeting minutes from the July meeting are delayed, so approval will be deferred to the September meeting.

New Business:

Discussion:

I. Discussion on FEC attendance at 2025 Illinois Against Hate: Human Rights in Action at City of Champaign

- i. Chair Carter- Allen explains that this is the training Chief Green recommended that the Commission attend and encourages all commissioners to register to attend the conference if able.
- ii. Chair Carter Allen shares that it is located at the Hotel Conference Center near/on the University of Illinois Campus.
- iii. Staff Liaison Amelia Ohlrogge shares information about the two tracks being offered at the conference: Human Rights in Action and Preventing Hate in Our Communities.

II. October 2025 FEC Speaker

- a. Chair Carter Allen inquires if the Commission has been thinking about who they would like to come to speak to the Commission and invites a discussion.
 - i. Chair Carter Allen recommends Alex Sierra from the Chamber of Commerce
 - ii. Commissioner Dismuke recommended Andre Allen as DEI Chief for Peoria County. Chair Carter Allen agrees as it relates to Fair Employment and hiring
 - iii. Chair Ruffin recommends someone involved in Labor/Workforce, etc.
 - iv. Vice Chair Holloway and Chair Carter Allen discuss possibly having Dr. Kherat
 - v. Chair recommends that speakers be Quarterly—January, April, July and October.
 - vi. Requested speakers for the Commission are October 2025 – Alex Sierra, January 2026 – Andre Allen, April 2026 – Dr. Kherat; and July 2026 – Chris Setti, October 2026 – Kathy Lehmann.

III. Commissioner Reports

- a. Chair requests updates from Commissioners
 - i. Commissioner Ruffin provides information on the IT accelerator program. Solar, and Green Construction programs at ICC Workforce Program.

Commissioner Ruffin shares that the IT accelerator program has a Co-Op with Bradley and Eureka so that individuals in the program can complete the second half of their certification, which is free.

- ii. Vice Chair Holloway shares updates on staffing at Manual High School; and reports that they still have a career coach and the options program for students; In addition to other therapeutic mentoring services being provided to students.
 1. Commissioners all discuss ways to actively help young people who are struggling, including volunteering when available and for whatever amount of time is available including before or after the school day.
- iii. Commissioner Dismuke shares that there is still a nursing shortage and a lot of agency nurses are being utilized. In addition, Commissioner shares that with new staff challenges include timeliness, work etiquette, dress and hygiene. All commissioners agree that these are areas that on-going mentorship and direction are needed.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion:

- Chair Carter – Allen inquires if there is any unfinished business.
- Chair Carter – Allen states that the only previously discussed item is the Handbook which has been put on hold at this time, until decisions have been made as to what the updated language will be as it relates to recent DOJ directives.

Public Comments: NONE

Community Input: NONE

Adjournment:

Chair Carter- Allen calls for a Motion to Adjourn at 5:28 PM: Vice Chair Holloway Motions to Adjourn, Seconded by Commissioner Ruffin; Motion carries by a vote of “aye”