

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**June 8, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Frances Rigberg Baker, Daniel Larson, Peter Resnick, Lisa Mosley, Rizwan Uddin

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Carol Bradford, Rita Haber, Eric Smith, Aisha Lamb Sobh

**STAFF PRESENT:** Todd Rent

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Larson called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:38 p.m. A quorum was present.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Resnick proposed a new item of discussion to be undertaken at the end of the “New Business” portion of the agenda. There were no objections. The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2011 were reviewed. Ms. Rigberg Baker made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Mosley seconded the motion. Chair Larson called for a voice vote. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes of May 11, 2011 were approved as presented.

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Barbara Kessel, an Urbana citizen and member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Steering Committee, addressed the Commission. Ms. Kessel stated that the Illinois Statewide ACLU had filed a complaint with the Federal Department of Justice, calling for an investigation of the Illinois State Police’s use of consent searches. Ms. Kessel noted that the ACLU has data concerning the same. Ms. Kessel further noted her knowledge that a traffic stop study had been completed for the city of Urbana and that Urbana “has a problem”. With regards to the problem of racial disparity in traffic stops and/or consent searches conducted by the police, Ms. Kessel stated that she would like to be part of the solution before the issue has to be reviewed and addressed by “higher bodies”. Ms. Kessel noted that the problem of racial disparity is undergoing review at the state and Federal levels, as well as by the United Nations. Mr. Resnick responded that this will be an upcoming topic of discussion at the present meeting and that there will be a joint meeting with the Civilian Police Review Board on this topic as well. He asked Ms. Kessel to share the ACLU’s data with the Commission.

Nancy Stag, an Urbana citizen and member of the Interfaith Alliance, addressed the Commission. On behalf of the Interfaith Alliance, Ms. Stag echoed many of the comments made by Ms. Kessel on behalf of the ACLU.

Belden Fields – an Urbana citizen, professor emeritus of political science, and member of the Midwest Coalition of Human Rights – addressed the Commission. Mr. Fields was concerned with the ethnicity-based “selective treatment” received by those stopped in traffic by law enforcement. Concerning the IDOT Traffic Stop Study, Mr. Fields stated that he was “distressed” by the information it contains. He offered suggestions and stated that he would like to see a report from the City on the IDOT Traffic Stop Study once it has undergone a thorough review.

Martel Miller addressed the Commission. Mr. Miller was concerned with racial profiling and unreasonable searches by law enforcement during traffic stops. He hoped that Urbana would set a good example for other law enforcement agencies by rejecting racial profiling and refraining from searches based on racial profiling.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. IDOT Traffic Stop Study Update**

Mr. Rent updated the Commission on the progress of scheduling a joint meeting to review and discuss the IDOT Traffic Stop Study. He related that a preliminary date had been selected on which to conduct a joint meeting: July 13, 2011. The meeting would include the Human Relations Commission, the Civilian Police Review Board, the Mayor’s Neighborhood Safety Task Force, and various concerned community groups. Mr. Rent noted that a regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission would fall on July 13 and asked if the Commission would be willing to forego its regular monthly meeting in favor of the aforementioned joint meeting. By general consensus the Commission agreed.

### **B. Discrimination Law Workshop Update**

Mr. Rent briefly updated the Commission on this matter. He noted that staff was still working on scheduling the workshop. Further, he anticipated the Commission having a case come before it within the next three months following this meeting. Questions and comments from the Commission were addressed by Mr. Rent.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. EEO Contractor Review – A & R Mechanical Services and Springfield Electric Supply**

Note: Review of A & R Mechanical Services and Springfield Electric Supply appear as two separate items of business on the agenda; they were discussed concurrently during the course of the meeting.

Mr. Rent gave the Commission a summary of the additional data provided by both vendors/contractors. Based on the aforesaid information, the staff recommendation was as follows:

- A & R Mechanical Services
  - Recommend 6 months
- Springfield Electric Supply
  - Recommend 1 year

Mr. Resnick made a motion that the Commission approve Springfield Electric Supply for a one-year certification. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mosley. A brief discussion ensued, following which Chair Larson called for a voice vote. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

With regards to A & R Mechanical Services, Mr. Resnick made a motion as follows: that the Commission render an initial finding of noncompliance and that the Commission ask the Human Relations Officer to give a recommendation and schedule a hearing for A & R Mechanical Services at the earliest possible date. Mr. Uddin seconded the motion. The matter was discussed in turn by each Commissioner. Questions and comments from the Commission were addressed by Mr. Rent. Following discussion, Chair Larson called for a roll-call vote. Roll was taken and the votes were as follows:

Rigberg Baker:	Yes	Resnick:	Yes
Larson:	Yes	Uddin:	Yes
Mosley:	No		

With four “yes” votes and one “no” vote, the motion carried.

B. City of Urbana – Workforce Demographics Snapshot

Mr. Rent gave a brief review to the Commission on the City of Urbana’s most recent workforce demographics report. He noted that a new report would be forthcoming in August 2011. General comments from the Commission followed.

## VII. STAFF REPORT

A. Approval of EEO Workforce Statistics

Mr. Rent advised the Commission that the staff recommendation for Farnsworth Group should be changed from one year (as shown on the EEO Vendor Spreadsheet) to six months.

The EEO Workforce Statistics were reviewed for the following:

- Infrastructure Engineering, Inc.
  - Recommend 2 years
- Illiana Construction Co.
  - Recommend 2 years
- Stark Excavating, Inc.
  - Recommend 1 year
- Birkey's Farm Store, Inc.
  - Recommend Commission review
- Walden Associated Technologies
  - Recommend 1 year
- Farnsworth Group
  - Recommend 6 months

Mr. Resnick made a motion that the Commission approve Infrastructure Engineering, Inc., for a two-year certification. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mosley. Chair Larson called for a voice vote. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Resnick made a motion that the Commission approve Illiana Construction Co. for a two-year certification; Stark Excavating for a one-year certification; and Walden Associated Technologies for a one-year certification. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mosley. Chair Larson called for a voice vote. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission reviewed the workforce statistics and other pertinent information provided by Farnsworth Group and by Birkey's Farm Store, Inc.

Mr. Resnick made a motion that the Commission set forth a request for review of these vendors/contractors; review to be conducted at the August 2011 meeting of the Human Relations Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rigberg Baker. A brief discussion among Commissioners and staff ensued. Chair Larson called for a voice vote. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

B. HRO Activity Report

Mr. Rent reviewed the status of the Human Relations Office's pending cases. Questions and comments from the Commission were addressed during the review.

C. Budget Report

There was nothing to report.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Larson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Weck  
Recording Secretary