



CITY HALL • 100 STATE STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511

**MINUTES**  
**BELOIT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**  
**AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 5:30 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM by Chair Kathryn Ingram.

Present: Commissioners Gretchen Roy, Martin Densch, Ricardo Valdez, Dennis Walsh and Staff Representative Teri Downing. Commissioner Carolyn Lawrence arrived at 5:50PM. Absent: Commissioners Yadira Guardarrama and Thomas Ryan.

2. Approval of Minutes of the October 20, 2010 Meeting

Commissioner Valdez moved for approval of minutes of the regular meeting held on October 20, 2010. Commissioner Roy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Public Participation

Commissioner Ingram opened the meeting to public participation but there were no members of the public present.

4. Status Report from Markley Investigations on Closed Fair Housing Complaints

Staff explained that there have been a total of fifteen fair housing complaints filed with the City of Beloit in 2009 and 2010, seven of which have been closed. Ms. Downing also explained that there are eight open fair housing complaints in various stages of the process that Commissioners will not be briefed on. The EOHR must remain objective in the event any of the cases would come before the Commission for judgment.

Staff provided the Commissioners with a listing of the basis and outcomes of the seven closed complaints, as well as a listing of the status of the eight open complaints.

John Markley of Markley Investigations, Inc. presented brief summaries of each of the closed fair housing complaints.

Commissioner Lawrence asked if citizens should contact the Community Development Department if they had questions or needed help filing a complaint. Staff explained that if a complainant needs assistance, they should be directed to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall for assistance from her.

Commissioner Lawrence asked if a Complainant filed a complaint based on disability if the person would need to provide a doctor's note. Mr. Markley explained that a note from a doctor would be needed for evidence in such a case.

Commissioner Lawrence commented that she was glad to see that training for rental property staff was performed in one of the closed cases. She expressed that she would

like to make fair housing training a requirement for lenders and landlords. Staff explained that when a free landlord training is scheduled, all landlords who are respondents in the fair housing complaints will receive notice of the training. However, the training is not required.

The Commissioners decided they would like to receive biannual updates from the Fair Housing Investigator on closed cases.

5. Upcoming Events

Staff reminded the Commissioners that there will be a Fair Housing Education seminar in English held at the Beloit Public Library on November 18, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:30.

The Commission decided that a December meeting will only be held if there are items for action; if there are none the meeting will be canceled.

Commissioner Lawrence announced that there is a fundraiser for the Merrill Community Center on New Years Eve at the Center.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Ingram moved for adjournment and Commissioner Roy seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM by Chair Kathryn Ingram.

Teri Downing  
Special Programs Administrator