

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING – ROOM 1A  
HARTFORD, CT 06106  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2010  
10:00 A.M.**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Andrew Norton, Chairperson  
Edith Pestana  
Cheryl Lynn Clarke  
Patricia J. Wrice  
Dawn Niles  
Shelley Best  
Alexia E. Cruz  
Milton Johnson

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Edward Mambruno, Secretary

**STAFF PRESENT**

David Teed, Assistant Attorney General  
Alvin Bingham, Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance Supervisor  
James J. O'Neill, Legislative Regulations Specialist  
Margaret Peters, Secretary II

**I. Chairperson**

Chairperson Andrew Norton convened the August 4, 2010 Special Commission Meeting of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities to order at 10:18 a.m.

**II. Public Session**

Chairperson Norton announced that four people from the Department of Public Works (DPW) plus David Teed, CHRO advisor, will go into Executive Session with the Commissioners.

Chairperson Norton noted the Special Commission Meeting has two parts. Part One is an Executive Session regarding the relocation of the agency's central office with DPW. Part Two has been reserved for possible action/discussion after Executive Session where employees as well as union representatives may speak within a specified time frame if they so desire.

The motion was made by Commissioner Pestana to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Neal Cunningham (Union Representative) raised a point of order that CHRO personnel should be allowed to speak and listen to some parts of what DPW has to say before the Executive Session.

Chairperson Norton stated there could not be an amendment to the Agenda. Changing the Agenda would require a 24-hour notice.

A discussion ensued in which Commissioners stated they were not comfortable about going into Executive Session before CHRO employees and the Union Representative had a chance to voice their concerns.

Commissioner Best made a motion to alter the Commission Agenda by first hearing from DPW, CHRO staff and their Union Representative and then holding the Executive Session afterward for matters that could not be discussed in public. Commissioner Wrice seconded the motion.

Commissioner Johnson pointed out that there was already a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Pestana withdrew the motion to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Johnson withdrew his second.

Commissioner Best made a motion to alter the Commission Agenda. The order was changed as follows: DPW would first briefly explain its process; Charter Oak Health Center would state its position; staff would be given an opportunity to voice their concerns; and then the Executive Session would be held. Commissioner Wrice seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Norton did not vote.

William Falletti, DPW Supervisor; Douglas Moore, Chief of Staff; and Reanne V. Curtis, DPW Commissioner spoke about the leasing process and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Alfreda Turner, Director of Charter Oak Health Center, indicated that her organization had received federal funds and that the CHRO needed to vacate the building so the renovations could be completed on time.

Cheryl Sharp, Union Representative, spoke on behalf of staff (P-2 Bargaining Unit) to discuss concerns about CHRO Central Office's potential move out of the Hartford / Greater Hartford area. Staff feels services would be diminished. Staff also voiced concern about being further away from access to Legislative Office Building.

The Commission then went into Executive Session.

**III. Return To Regular Session**

Chairperson Norton stated that he would entertain a motion to return to Regular Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to return to Regular Session. The motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Norton did not vote. Chairperson Norton noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

**IV. Vote on Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Best and seconded by Commissioner Niles that the CHRO Central Office remain in the City of Hartford; that the agency explore the amount of space actually needed at this point in time; that a working group of Commissioners be established; and that the Commissioners expedite the process by using their political capital. All approved except Commissioner Cruz who opposed and Commissioner Johnson who abstained. Chairperson Norton did not vote.

**V. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Niles and seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:52 p.m.