



Maine Human Rights Commission
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Kit Thomson Crossman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 5th, 2024 MEETING

In person (19 Union Street, Augusta, ME) and via ZOOM

Commissioner David chaired the meeting and called it to order at 8:30 AM. Also present were Commissioners Walker, O'Brien & Douglas (Douglas by Zoom).

AGENDA

Commissioner Walker moved, seconded by Commissioner Douglas, to adopt the Agenda and Consent Agenda to accept the Investigator's recommended decision in each of the cases listed on the Consent Agenda (see listing on page 3). 4 in favor | 0 opposed.

MINUTES

Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to adopt the January Commission Meeting Minutes. 4 in favor | 0 opposed.

ADMINISTRATION

Monthly reports : Executive Director Thomson Crossman discussed reporting on the following Commission activities:

- Personnel: A report was placed on file.
- Compliance: Since the last meeting, there was 1 successful conciliation and 5 unsuccessful conciliations. 10 reasonable grounds cases remain in active conciliation.
- New Charges: 50 new complaints filed in January 2024.
- Administrative Dismissals: 28 administrative dismissals issued in January 2024.
- Pre-determination settlements: 8 pre-determination cases settled with benefits of \$456,500 to complainants in January 2024.

Quarterly reports :

- Training & Education: Commission staff attended/participated in 10 training or education sessions in the second quarter of the fiscal year.
- Financial Reports: Presented and placed on file.
- Pending Inventory: 645 cases pending at the end of January 2024.

New Business:

At 8:45 AM Commissioner David began the case hearing agenda.

HEARING AGENDA (MORNING SESSION)

E22-0076, *White v. Liberty Mutual Insurance*. Complainant was not present. Attorney Brooke Haley was present for Respondent. Commissioner O'Brien moved, seconded by Commissioner Douglas, to find that there are no reasonable grounds to believe that Liberty Mutual Insurance discriminated against Dustin White on the basis of age; there are no reasonable grounds to believe that Liberty Mutual Insurance retaliated against Dustin White for engaging in MHRA- and WPA-protected conduct; and the complaint should be dismissed in accordance with 5 M.R.S. 4612(2).

4 in favor | 0 opposed.

H23-0328AB, *Taylor v. Patricia Dearborn & T & S Property*. Attorney Alice Neal presented Complainant's position. Attorney Sarah Newell presented Respondents' position. Investigator Nupur Leva reviewed her report and recommendations and answered Commissioner questions. Commissioner O'Brien moved, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to find that there are no reasonable grounds to believe that Patricia Dearborn and/or T and S property Management discriminated against Bobbie Taylor based on her disability (discriminatory statements, terms and conditions, reasonable accommodation, and eviction) and/or sexual orientation or gender identity; there are no reasonable grounds to believe that Patricia Dearborn and/or T and S Property Management retaliated against Bobbie Taylor for engaging in MHRA-protected activity; and the complaint should be dismissed in accordance with 5 M.R.S. § 4612(2).

4 in favor | 0 opposed.

H23-0365ABC, *Hood v. Chasse Apartments, LLC, Mary Ann Chasse & Lyle Chasse*. Attorney Elizabeth Fontugne presented Complainant's position. Attorney Theodore Smith presented Respondents' position. Investigator Angela Morse reviewed her report and recommendations and answered Commissioner questions. Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, to find that there are no reasonable grounds to believe that Chasse Apartments LLC, Mary Ann Chasse, & Lyle Chasse discriminated against Alton Hood III on the basis of disability and/or receipt of public assistance; there are no reasonable grounds to believe that Chasse Apartments LLC, Mary Ann Chasse, & Lyle Chasse retaliated against Alton Hood III engaging in MHRA -protected activity; and the complaint should be dismissed in accordance with 5 M.R.S. 4612(2).

4 in favor | 0 opposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 10: 07 Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to go into executive session to discuss pending or contemplated litigation and the Commission's legal rights and duties with Commission Counsel pursuant 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(E). 4 in favor | 0 opposed.

At approximately 10:38AM, Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, to come out of Executive Session. 4 in favor | 0 opposed.

Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner Walker to litigate H23-0130-AB, *Moskal-Kanz v. Tidewater Loft Ass'n/Settino*], a reasonable-grounds case that was not successfully resolved in conciliation; not to litigate E22-0052, *Morrell v. Cosmo, LLC* or PA21-0236, *Ouellette v. Trinity Evangelical Free Church and Homeless Shelter*; and to approve the settlement agreement in H20-0399, *Guerette v. Larkin* and allow Commission Counsel to sign for the Commissioners.. 4 in favor | 0 opposed.

At approximately 10:41AM the meeting was adjourned.

CONSENT AGENDA

E22-0106	Jason Gilpatrick (NH) v. Ridgeline Exteriors (Sanford)	NRG
E22-0158	Rhonda Ferrara (Greene) v. Partners Bank of New England (Sanford)	NRG
PA22-0282AB	Philip Doucette (individually and o/b/o Minor Child) (Auburn) v. Brookfield Properties Retail, Inc (Augusta) & GGP-Maine Mall, LLC (dba Maine Mall) (South Portland)	NRG
E22-0369	Lisa Meacham (Madison) v. First Atlantic Healthcare/Woodlawn (Skowhegan)	NRG
E22-0398	Wayne Morell, Jr. (Albion) v. Bath Iron Works Corporation (Bath)	NRG
H23-0341	John D’Ambrosio (South Portland) v. South Portland Housing Authority (South Portland)	NRG
H23-0360 AB	Torey Myshrall (Mechanic Falls) v. Chara Properties LLC (Mechanic Falls) & Joshua Herlihy (Mechanic Falls)	NRG

TABLED

** Indicates a case in which a "reasonable grounds" finding is recommended*