

City of Tampa
Human Rights Board
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held its fourth meeting of the year on May 12, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at Lemon Street Municipal Office Building, 4900 W. Lemon Street, 1st floor, HCD Conference Room C, Tampa, Florida 33609.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony Carswell Ashley Roberts Tomika Cole
John Perry Trevor Rosine

CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Betina Baron Carl Brody Chris Calder
Naomi Candelaria Maurice Foster Brian Morrison
HPD Officer Cosme

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Richard Baez

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A. Carswell, the Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll Call was conducted, with all board members in attendance, except for Brian Frey.

INTRODUCTIONS

C. Brody introduced fellow City Attorney B. Morrison, who would be staying for the entire meeting. Richard Baez introduced himself.

The chair announced that the Board would be proceeding out of order for the guests' convenience and proceeding to the Case Review on the agenda.

CASE REVIEW – Perez, Sarah v. Tampa Housing Authority

Office of Human Rights Investigator B. Baron began by summarizing past actions taken with the case. B. Baron stated that the CP did not provide documentation in a reasonable amount of time to RP. The RP did not violate the CP's rights, as they did not receive documentation from the CP's medical provider.

T. Cole asked B. Baron about a form signed by a nurse. B. Baron replied that the form’s signature was correct, but it was not obtained within the timeframe required, and the CP was informed of that.

T. Cole noted that she saw several attempts to reach the medical facility. B. Baron replied that the number was the same for both the nurse and the doctor.

B. Baron stated the RP provided all necessary resources, including videos explaining the process.

T. Rosine asked if RP tried to follow up with CP. B. Baron replied that several attempts were made, but the responsibility to follow up lies with the customer.

C. Brody explained to the Board that the results from the review are either “Uphold” or “Order Further Investigation.) He further stated that the goal of the review is to look at the facts and make a determination. The decision is whether the evidence supports the determination made by TOHR. If it does not, then the Board decision should be “Order Further Investigation.)

T. Rosine moved to Uphold Determination. T. Cole seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously to Uphold Determination.

A. Carswell thanked the member of the public for attending and moved forward with the Board Meeting.

A. Roberts **moved** to accept the revised Board schedule, **relocating meetings to City Council chambers, the first Tuesday of every month, at 9:00 A.M.** The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman invited the Board members to review the minutes from April 14, 2021, board meeting. J. Perry **moved** to accept the meeting minutes, with one clerical correction. The motion was **seconded**, and the **motion passed** unanimously.

REGULAR REPORTS

Supervisor’s Report

Maurice Foster, Human Rights Investigator Supervisor, began by noting that in most cases, TOHR is receiving deals with persons with disabilities. As such, the Board needs to work on having representation at the Board. M. Foster continued by thanking the Board for their determination and commitment. He informed the Board that this month is historic; six cases will be closed, resulting in over \$48K in judgments. M. Foster stated that new SOPs would be implemented once current contracts have been closed out.

M. Foster concluded by informing the Board that the Tampa Office of Human Rights cannot provide any training for Board members at this time but will continue to track.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meeting attendee Richard Baez thanked the Board and was glad to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

T. Rosine informed all present that **Tampa Pride 2021** will take place on Saturday, May 22, from 10 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

T. Cole stated that it would be good for someone from the Board there and that the Board should have more visibility to the public.

M. Foster suggested committees could be a solution and that it be discussed at a further meeting.

B. Morrison said the best practice of this is having one Board member be a committee lead and bringing in members of the public to compose the rest of the committee.

M. Foster mentioned updating the Mission Statement of the Human Rights Board, and he would bring it up at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 1, 9:00 AM, at City Council Chambers.**

ADJOURNMENT

J. P. moved to adjourn, motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Board adjourned at 10:05.