

1           BEFORE THE STATE OF INDIANA  
2           CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
3           - - -  
4  
5           PUBLIC MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2015  
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8           - - -  
9           PROCEEDINGS

10 in the above-captioned matter, before the Indiana  
11 Civil Rights Commission, Alpha Blackburn,  
12 Chairperson, taken before me, Lindy L. Meyer,  
13 Jr., a Notary Public in and for the State of  
14 Indiana, County of Shelby, at the Indiana  
15 Government Center South, Conference Center,  
16 Rooms 1 & 2, 402 West Washington Street,  
17 Indianapolis, Indiana, on Friday, September 25,  
18 2015 at 1:07 o'clock p.m.

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21           William F. Daniels, RPR/CP CM d/b/a  
22           ACCURATE REPORTING OF INDIANA  
23           12922 Brighton Avenue  
              Carmel, Indiana 46032  
              (317) 848-0088

1 APPEARANCES:

2 COMMISSION MEMBERS:

3 Alpha Blackburn, Chairperson

Kent Hull

4 Sheryl Edwards

Michelle McKeown

5 Steven A. Ramos

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INDIANA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

7 By Jamal Smith, Director/Secretary

& Akia Haynes, Deputy Director

8 Indiana Government Center North

100 North Senate Avenue, Room N103

9 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

On behalf of the Commission.

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11 OTHER COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

12 Noell Allen

Angela Blackwell

13 Debbie Rincones-Chavez

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1 1:07 o'clock a.m.  
September 25, 2015

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3 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Good  
4 afternoon.

5 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon.

6 MS. HAYNES: Good afternoon.

7 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: The Indiana  
8 Civil Rights Commission is now in public meeting.

9 You have an agenda, which I think we can follow

10 to the letter. We do indeed have a quorum, so

11 we'll move to Item B, which is Approval and

12 Adoption of the Meeting Minutes. I would

13 entertain a motion to approve and adopt.

14 COMM. RAMOS: So moved.

15 COMM. MCKEOWN: Second.

16 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you  
17 very much.

18 All in favor?

19 COMM. EDWARDS: Aye.

20 COMM. HULL: Aye.

21 COMM. MCKEOWN: Aye.

22 COMM. RAMOS: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Aye.

1       Anyone opposed?

2               (No response.)

3               CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you.

4   And now, our esteemed Director will present his  
5   report.

6               MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, everyone.

7               CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Good  
8   afternoon.

9               COMM. EDWARDS: Good afternoon.

10              MR. SMITH: Short and sweet today. A  
11   few things I want to bring to the Commission's  
12   attention. One is that we are blessed to have  
13   filled our CFO position, so we're excited to  
14   welcome Ms. Angela Blackwell to the Indiana Civil  
15   Rights Commission. She is here in attendance.

16       And, of course, in the last couple of  
17   weeks she's been drinking out of a fire hydrant  
18   as the financials go. Of course, there's tons of  
19   training and things to get caught up on, which is  
20   where she is in the process, but we look forward  
21   to picking up the pace and getting back to how we  
22   normally operate as it relates to the  
23   Commission's budgetary presentation.

1 So, welcoming Angela officially on record  
2 and introducing her to the Commission.

3 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Welcome.

4 MS. BLACKWELL: Thank you.

5 MR. SMITH: That said, things are on  
6 board in terms of the budget. One thing I do  
7 want to make note is that, of course, with our  
8 work share agreement with HUD, we finalized that  
9 contract the end of June. It takes a while for  
10 the audit. The audit has finished. The  
11 negotiation back and forth between us and them  
12 has been completed, and our award per our  
13 previous year's work share will be coming in to  
14 tune of a little over 500 --

15 (Chairwoman Blackburn sneezed.)

16 MR. SMITH: Bless you -- a little  
17 over \$500,000 for the Commission, so we're  
18 excited about that.

19 They had tons of questions about our  
20 tester program, which is uniquely set; it does  
21 not exist anywhere in the country, and I think as  
22 such, kind of prompted quite a few questions from  
23 HUD about how we were able to pull it off

1 considering the size of the ICRC. So, we took  
2 that as a compliment, if you will. So, excited  
3 about that, excited about the completion of the  
4 contract and the audit, and the half million  
5 dollars that will be coming to the agency.

6 Any questions about any of that at this  
7 point?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. SMITH: Hearing none, moving on  
10 to the outreach, again, the agency is very, very  
11 active. You guys should have received in your  
12 report a list of all of the events that we've  
13 been engaged in for the last month and a half.

14 Some of the most notable -- well, first I  
15 want to make mention, of course, is Hispanic  
16 Heritage Month, and we've been extremely busy in  
17 that regard, but the other piece is some of the  
18 activities we've been doing with the growing  
19 Haitian community, so a lot of that's being  
20 negotiated, some back-and-forth there.

21 One of the previous meetings that was  
22 originally scheduled for here was postponed, and  
23 so we want to reschedule that. We'll be spending

1 some more time down in Washington, Indiana, where  
2 the largest concentration is at this point, and  
3 working to see how we can help that community as  
4 well.

5 So, any thoughts, questions or feedback  
6 about the outreach activities?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. SMITH: Hearing none, that will  
9 complete my report. Thank you, guys.

10 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you  
11 very much.

12 There being no or -- oral arguments  
13 today -- easy for me to say -- we will move then  
14 to the Report of Commissioners on the Complaint  
15 Appeals.

16 Comm. Edwards?

17 COMM. EDWARDS: Okay. I have  
18 reviewed the case for Sherry Nash versus Centaur  
19 Acquisition, also doing business as Indiana Grand  
20 Casino, and I move to accept the ruling of no  
21 probable cause.

22 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: May I have a  
23 motion to accept the Commissioner's

1 recommendation?

2 COMM. RAMOS: So moved.

3 COMM. MCKEOWN: So moved.

4 COMM. RAMOS: Second.

5 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: All in favor?

6 COMM. MCKEOWN: Aye.

7 COMM. HULL: Aye.

8 COMM. EDWARDS: Aye.

9 COMM. RAMOS: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Aye.

11 Anyone opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you,

14 Comm. Edwards.

15 Comm. Young has sent word that he's still

16 reviewing the case of Rong Fan versus Summerlakes

17 Home Owners Association, and Comm. Ramos is here.

18 If you would please make your report.

19 COMM. RAMOS: Madam Chair, in the

20 case of Monica Clay versus Capitol City Ford, I

21 recommend that we uphold the Deputy Director's

22 finding of no probable cause.

23 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you.

1 May I have a motion to accept that?

2 COMM. MCKEOWN: So moved.

3 COMM. HULL: I do move.

4 COMM. MCKEOWN: Second.

5 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you.

6 All in favor?

7 COMM. EDWARDS: Aye.

8 COMM. HULL: Aye.

9 COMM. MCKEOWN: Aye.

10 COMM. RAMOS: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Aye.

12 Anyone opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you.

15 Comm. Hull?

16 COMM. HULL: My case, which was

17 carried over from the last meeting because there

18 was a -- it was my mix-up on the thumb drive,

19 Diana Hayes, I'm going to recommend that we

20 affirm it. I will say very briefly this housing

21 discrimination case, it originated because the

22 Complainant, who is an African-American tenant,

23 was the subject of a noise complaint from her

1 neighbor, who was Caucasian.

2 The Complainant felt that there was some  
3 racial animosity in the way the landlord handled  
4 the matter. In my review of the record, I see no  
5 indication that this was anything other than a  
6 noise complaint. There wasn't any basis for a  
7 racial -- I do not see any evidence of racial  
8 discrimination. Therefore, I recommend that the  
9 recommendation of no probable cause be upheld.

10 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you,  
11 Comm. Hull.

12 May I have a motion to accept that  
13 recommendation?

14 COMM. EDWARDS: So moved.

15 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: And a second?

16 As if we --

17 COMM. RAMOS: Second.

18 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: -- need a  
19 second. Your own recommendation stands.

20 So, all in favor?

21 COMM. EDWARDS: Aye.

22 COMM. HULL: Aye.

23 COMM. MCKEOWN: Aye.

1 COMM. RAMOS: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Aye.  
3 Anyone opposed?  
4 (No response.)  
5 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you.  
6 Assignment now of New Appeals. They are  
7 Barry Stewart versus Indiana National Guard  
8 Hoosier Challenge Academy -- versus Indiana  
9 National Guard Hoosier Challenge Academy.  
10 Comm. Edwards, if you wouldn't mind.  
11 COMM. EDWARDS: Okay.  
12 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Bruce  
13 Hardiman versus Metaldyne M & A Bluffton, and if,  
14 Comm. Ramos, you would, please.  
15 COMM. RAMOS: Yes.  
16 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you.  
17 Comm. Edwards, if you would please review  
18 Damon P. Stepp versus General Cable,  
19 and Comm. Hull --  
20 COMM. EDWARDS: Excuse me; did you  
21 say --  
22 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Oh, I'm  
23 sorry. Did I -- no, I didn't mean to assign that

2 COMM. EDWARDS: Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: I meant to  
4 assign it to --

5 COMM. RAMOS: McKeown.

6 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: -- McKeown,  
7 yes. Thank you.

8 And then Comm. Hull, if you would do the  
9 next case, Jamal L. Smith versus The Woods of  
10 Eagle Creek, I'll do the last two. They are  
11 Shawn Carraher versus Indiana Wesleyan University  
12 and Jamal Smith versus Gene B. Glick Company &  
13 Brookview Apartments.

14 And there being no Motions before the  
15 Commission, no Findings of Fact, no Consent  
16 Agreements, and no Public Comment that I can  
17 discern from where I sit, okay, let's move to  
18 Announcements.

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: So many  
21 announcements.

22 MR. SMITH: I just want to make note  
23 of the meeting dates, obviously, for the rest of

1 this year, 2015, and then the dates for 2016 have  
2 been included in the agenda, so make note of

3 those. All meetings will be held, again, in  
4 Rooms 1 and 2, unless the Commission has any  
5 conflict with the room setup.

6 So, no announcements except for that.

7 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: Thank you  
8 very much.

9 Commissioners, do you have any comments or  
10 announcements?

11 COMM. EDWARDS: Huh-uh.

12 CHAIRPERSON BLACKBURN: None? Thank  
13 you very much. Then in that case, the Commission  
14 meeting is adjourned.

15 - - -  
16 Thereupon, the proceedings of  
17 September 25, 2015 were concluded  
18 at 1:17 o'clock p.m.  
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1 CERTIFICATE

2 I, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., the undersigned

3 Court Reporter and Notary Public residing in the  
4 City of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana, do  
5 hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and  
6 correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me  
7 on Friday, September 25, 2015 in this matter and  
8 transcribed by me.

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Lindy L. Meyer, Jr.,

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Notary Public in and

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for the State of Indiana.

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15 My Commission expires October 27, 2016.

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