

**STATE OF ILLINOIS TORTURE INQUIRY  
AND RELIEF COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission  
October 31, 2011  
4:00 p.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Conference Room 9 – 031  
100 W. Randolph Street  
Chicago, Illinois

MINUTES

**PRESENT:**

Commissioners

Chairman Patricia Brown Holmes  
Leonard Cavise  
Doris Green (Alternate)  
Hipolito Roldan  
Rob Warden

Absent Commissioners

Bernetta D. Bush (Alternate)  
Neil Toppel  
Marcie Thorp (Alternate)  
Janette Wilson (Alternate)

Staff

David C. Thomas, Executive Director  
Rosa Martinez, Private Secretary

Attendees

Human Rights Commission

Ewa Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Donyelle Gray, Acting General Counsel

Members of the Public:

Armanda Schackelford

**NOTICE:**

Open and Closed Meetings of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission are audio recorded.

## **I. Call to Order**

On October 31, 2011, at 4:05 p.m. Chairman Patricia Brown Holmes called to order a meeting of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission, (“TIRC”).

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.*, it was determined that a quorum of the public body was present at the meeting without the physical presence of Commissioners Bush, Toppel, Thorp, Wilson. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Bush, Toppel, Thorp, Wilson gave notice (and “good cause” as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the Executive Director David Thomas that they would be unable to attend the October 31, 2011 meeting.

## **II. Consideration of the Minutes**

August 23, 2011

The TIRC voted to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2011, meeting as submitted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Roldan and seconded by Commissioner Warden. Motion carried 5-0. Chairman Holmes announced the minutes of the public portion of the meeting will be published on the website.

## **III. Executive Session**

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (5ILCS 120/2(c) (1)), the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the meeting at 4:08 p.m. in order to discuss internal personnel and investigation matters. Motion made by Commissioner Warden, seconded by Commissioner Roldan. Motion carried 5-0.

At 4:32 p.m. the open meeting resumed.

Chairman Holmes states the Commission discussed staffing matters, funding concerns and a claim that was filed with the TIRC during the executive session, as appropriate pursuant to the statute.

## **IV. Short Term Goals**

### **Scanning of Court Files**

Executive Director David Thomas reports that on October 28, 2011 the TIRC received fifty-nine CD’s from the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court containing files regarding pending claims before the TIRC. The Clerk of the Circuit Court has been scanning and providing the files to the Commission at no cost.

### **Assignment of Counsel for Claimants**

Executive Director Thomas reports that the TIRC is in need of additional *pro bono* counsel to advise claimants regarding the Waiver process and throughout the course of any further proceedings. The TIRC currently has assigned two *pro bono* counsel to advise claimants. Executive Director Thomas stated additional lawyers have expressed an interest in advising claimants and he is hoping to bring them onboard as soon as possible. A training video for counsel can be found on the TIRC Webpage. The training video was recorded on September 7, 2011 at Northwestern University, and it discusses the waiver process and includes a Q&A session.

### **IDOC Video Conferencing**

Executive Director Thomas stated that the Illinois Department of Corrections has agreed to allow the TIRC to obtain the signed waiver form from claimants via video conferencing. The video conferencing procedure will expedite the process of obtaining the signed waiver from claimants.

### **Report on status of Webpage**

Executive Director Thomas reports that the TIRC webpage is online and encourages the Commissioners to visit the site. The webpage contains a mission statement, a short history of the Commission, links to the TIRC Rules and Statutes, and a short biography of each Commissioner.

## **V. Long Term Goals**

### **Discussion of Committees**

Chairman Holmes informs the Commissioners that the decision whether to form Committees is being postponed due to vacancies on the TIRC. Once the Commission has filled the vacancies, it will discuss whether to proceed with forming the Committees.

### **Discussion of Procedure re Future Recommendations**

Commissioner Cavise inquired about the process involved in reviewing the recommendations from the Executive Director to the Commission. Executive Director Thomas stated that the recommendations will be discussed during Executive Session. A report with a recommendation will be distributed to each Commissioner for their review before the meeting at which the Commission will vote on the recommendation. Chairman Holmes recommends that Executive Director Thomas be available for discussion prior to

the Commission meeting to discuss the recommendation if any Commissioner may have additional questions.

A short discussion ensued concerning the possible relief the Commission can recommend for a claimant and the steps that will be taken if the claim is deemed credible. The Commission will not be a party to the proceedings in the Circuit Court, but will be available to discuss the recommendation made by the Commission.

## **VI. TIRC Calendar of Meetings**

The Calendar of Meetings for the TIRC, to be held in room 09-031 of the Thompson Center, for the remainder of 2011 is:

- December 6, 2011 10:00 a.m.

The Calendar of Meeting dates for the TIRC in 2012 is as follows:

- February 7, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
- April 3, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
- June 5, 2012 at 3:00 p. m.
- August 7, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
- October 2, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
- December 4, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner Cavise and seconded by Commissioner Roldan. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Brown Holmes, Chairman  
Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission