



**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**TORTURE INQUIRY AND RELIEF COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**  
**State of Illinois Building, 555 West Monroe Street, Illinois Room; Chicago, IL**

**IN-PERSON AND REMOTE-ACCESSIBLE MEETING**

MINUTES

**PRESENT:**

Commissioners Present

Chair Michael Strom  
Commissioner Steven Block  
Commissioner Johanes Maliza (Appearing via Webex/Remote)  
Commissioner Vanessa del Valle  
Commissioner Linnet Burden  
Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson  
Commissioner Brian Richardson  
Commissioner Erica Zunkel  
Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton  
Alternate Commissioner Sheila Bedi

Commissioners Absent

Alternate Commissioner Bennett Kaplan  
Alternate Commissioner Ivory Snow  
Alternate Commissioner Daniel Fenske

Staff Present (some via remote connection)

Aryn Evans (Interim Executive Director)  
Jennifer Crespo  
Daniel Thetford  
Demetria Norris  
Jerry Wynn (via Webex)  
LaWanna Carter  
Jenny Huh  
Silver Scales (via Webex)

## **I. Call to Order/Members Present**

On October 16, 2024, at approximately 2:10 p.m., Chair Michael Strom called the meeting of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission (“TIRC” or “Commission”) to order.

Physically present were Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Steven Block, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Commissioner Brian Richardson, and Commissioner Erica Zunkel comprising physical quorum. Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton and Alternate Commissioner Bedi were present but not casting binding votes because their primary commissioners, Commissioner Richardson and Commissioner del Valle, were present and casting binding votes. However, at 3:37 PM, Commissioner Richardson left the meeting and his alternate commissioner, Tameka Walton, casted binding votes for the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Strom called for a motion to allow Commissioner Maliza to attend and participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act allowing for remote attendance for family emergencies and unexpected childcare obligations, Sections 7(a)(iii) and 7(a)(iv). Commissioner Richardson moved to allow Commissioner Maliza to attend and participate remotely pursuant to Sections 7(a)(iii) and 7(a)(iv) of the Open Meetings Act and Commissioner Zunkel seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to allow Commissioner Maliza to participate remotely.

## **II. Claims**

### **1. BANKS, Michael (TIRC No. 2013.169-B)**

Evan Ribot and Dan Perlman of the law firm Kirkland & Ellis presented this matter to the Commission and Interim Director Evans noted her concurrence with their recommendation. Director Evans noted that TIRC did perform 30-day crime victim notification in this matter and that if any relatives of the victim, Neal Washington, were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Chair Strom discussed the procedural history of the underlying criminal case. Interim Director Evans commented on the availability of medical records. Commissioners discussed the complaint history of the involved officers. Commissioner Bedi asked questions about the attorneys involved in the proceedings for the underlying crime and discussed the claimant’s representation at trial. Commissioner Block discussed the evidence available at the trial. Commissioner Burden asked about the threshold TIRC uses when determining whether a confession was used to obtain a conviction.

No family members of the victim were present.

No family members of the Claimant were present.

This matter was recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was voted to refer by a 7-1 Commissioner vote, with Chair Strom, Commissioner Block, Commissioner del Valle, Commissioner Richardson, Commissioner Burden, Commissioner Moragne-Patterson, and Commissioner Zunkel voting to refer, Commissioner Maliza voting not to refer, and Alternate Commissioner Bedi casting an advisory vote to refer.

Director Evans thanked the attorneys of the law firm Kirkland & Ellis for their work on this claim and also Supervising Attorney Dan Thetford and Case Attorney Jenny Huh for their assistance.

## **2. COX, Ethienne (TIRC No. 2011.056-C)**

Mr. Cox's claim was investigated and analyzed by Christian Huehns, Andrew Bloomer, Paul Koltz, and Benno Sauerman of Kirkland & Ellis. TIRC's Case Attorney Jenny Huh presented an analysis of the case recommending denial with which Director Evans noted her concurrence. Director Evans noted that TIRC did perform 30-day crime victim notification in this matter and that if any relatives of the victim, Antonio Allen, were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Commissioner Richardson questioned the investigative team about the complaints against the involved officers, and Commissioner del Valle asked specifically about a detective's prior treatment of the Claimant. Commissioner del Valle also commented on the early outcry the Claimant made regarding abuse. Commissioners discussed the interviews of the Claimant that TIRC conducted and compared the interviews to each other and also in reference to the Claimant's testimony during the underlying criminal proceeding. Commissioners del Valle and Block discussed the interrogation not being recorded,

No family members of the victim were present.

Isaac Strong, a relative of the Claimant, spoke on the Claimant's behalf.

This matter was not recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was voted not to refer by a 5-3 Commissioners vote, with Chair Strom, Commissioner Block, Commissioner Maliza, Commissioner Burden, and Commissioner Zunkel voting not to refer, Commissioner del Valle, Commissioner Richardson, and Commissioner Moragne-Patterson voting to refer, and Alternate Commissioners Walton and Bedi casting non-binding advisory votes to refer.

Director Evans thanked the Kirkland & Ellis team as well as Supervising Attorney Dan Thetford and Case Attorney Jenny Huh for their work on the claim.

## **3. HALL, Timothy (TIRC No. 2013.158-H)**

Timothy Hall's case was investigated and analyzed by Jack Coles, Lucy Mahon, Savannah Malnar-Cole, and Andrea Murino from Kirkland & Ellis and General Counsel Jennifer Crespo who presented a brief summary of the case and her recommendation, with which Director Evans noted her concurrence.

Evans noted that TIRC did perform 30-day crime victim notification in this matter and that if any relatives of the victim, Augustine Smith, Ellen Roundtree, and Earl Collins were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Commissioner Block asked questions about the Claimant's credibility. Alternate Commissioner Bedi asked questions about the factors weighing against Mr. Hall's claim. Commissioner Zunkel discussed the prior determination drafts the Commission previously reviewed and Director Evans provided information about the changes made in the current draft.

No family members of the victim were present.

No family members for the Claimant were present.

This matter was recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was voted to refer by an 8-0 Commissioners vote, with Chair Strom, Commissioner Block, Commissioner Maliza, Commissioner del Valle, Commissioner Moragne-Patterson, Commissioner Richardson, Commissioner Burden, and Commissioner Zunkel voting to refer, with Alternate Commissioners Walton and Bedi casting non-binding advisory votes to refer.

Director Evans thanked the Kirkland and Ellis team as well as Supervising Attorney Dan Thetford, Jenny Huh, and Jennifer Crespo for their work on the claim.

#### **4. HENDERSON, Demetrius (TIRC No. 2014.213-H)**

Demetrius Henderson's case was investigated and analyzed by pro bono attorneys at Jones Day, Ally McQueen, Emily Dowling, and Ali Anderson, who presented a brief summary of the case and the recommendation, with which Director Evans noted her concurrence.

Evans noted that TIRC did perform 30-day crime victim notification in this matter and that if any relatives of the victim, K.B. (a minor), were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

The Victim's brother Delmar Boyd was present in person and spoke on behalf of the victim.

Curtis Croft, Co-Defendant, was present via telephone and spoke on behalf of the Claimant.

Commissioners discussed at length the Claimant's credibility and had questions for the Kirkland and Ellis Team. Commissioner Burden noted she covered this case when she previously worked as a news reporter. Commission staff reviewed the conflicts of interest policy codified in the Commission's administrative rules and noted that Commissioner Burden's previous experience as a journalist objectively reporting on the underlying criminal proceedings open to the public did not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest that would disqualify her from casting a binding vote. Commissioner Maliza discussed the pattern or practice evidence against the officers involved in this case. Commissioner Burden and Commissioner del Valle discussed the DNA evidence introduced, and Commissioner del Valle commented that the

Commission's role is to determine whether there is evidence torture occurred and does not include determining guilt and innocence.

This matter was recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was voted to refer by a 6-2 Commissioners vote, with Commissioner Block, Commissioner Maliza, Commissioner del Valle, Commissioner Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Walton, and Commissioner Zunkel voting to refer, Chair Michael Strom and Commissioner Linnet Burden voting not to refer, and Alternate Commissioner Bedi casting a non-binding advisory vote to refer.

Director Evans thanked the Jones Day team and Supervising Attorney Dan Thetford and Case Attorney Jenny Huh for their work on the claim.

### **5. MARTINEZ, Joseph (TIRC No. 2017.547-M)**

Joseph Martinez's case was investigated by Samantha Rose, Molly Kelley, Jeremy Roux and Erika Krum of Kirkland & Ellis who presented a brief summary of the case and the recommendation for Summary Dismissal, with which Director Evans noted her concurrence. A recommendation for summary dismissal does not rule on the merits of the torture claim itself but addresses a jurisdictional issue.

Evans noted that TIRC did perform 30-day crime victim notification in this matter and that if any relatives of the victim, Michael Padin, were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Valerie Padin, Victim's Mother was present via Webex and spoke on behalf of the victim.

The Claimant's teacher submitted a letter for the Commission's consideration, which TIRC Administrative Assistant LaWanna Carter read out loud.

Luis Martinez, Victim's brother was present in person and spoke on his behalf.

This matter was recommended for summary dismissal, and it was voted to summarily dismiss by an 8-0 Commissioners vote, with Chair Strom, Commissioner Block, Commissioner Maliza, Commissioner del Valle, Commissioner Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Walton, Commissioner Burden, and Commissioner Zunkel voting to summarily dismiss.

Director Evans thanked the Kirkland & Ellis team for their work on this case and also Supervising Attorney Dan Thetford and Jenny Huh for their work on the claim.

## **III. Executive Session**

### **1. Appointment of Specific Employee to Executive Director (5 ILCS-120(2)(c)(1))**

Chair Strom called for a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act to consider approving Resolution 2024-R-004, a resolution to appoint a specific employee, Aryn Evans, as Executive Director. Commissioner del Valle moved to enter

Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) and Commissioner Zunkel seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to enter Executive Session and Executive Session began at approximately 5:08 PM.

#### **IV. Final Action on Appointment Specific Employee to Executive Director**

The Commission returned to Open Session at approximately 5:18 PM. Chair Strom called for a motion to approve the resolution discussed in Closed Session to appoint Aryn Evans as Executive Director. Commissioner del Valle moved to approve the Resolution and Commissioner Moragne-Patterson seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2024-R-004 appointing Aryn Evans as Executive Director of the Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission.

#### **VII. Public Comment**

Mark Clements commented on the appointment of specific Commissioners and their abilities to serve.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Chair Strom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moragne-Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Del Valle seconded. Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at approximately 5:35 PM. The next meeting will be held on December 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.