



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
TORTURE INQUIRY AND RELIEF COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:30 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 Vanessa del Valle
Commissioner Linnet Burden
Alternate Commissioner Shobha Lakshmi Mahadev
Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton (via remote)
Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch
Alternate Commissioner Naomi Johnson

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Bennett Kaplan
Commissioner Erica Zunkel
Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson
Commissioner Brian Richardson
Alternate Commissioner Daniel Fenske
Alternate Commissioner Ivory Snow

Staff Present (some via remote connection)

Aryn Evans (Executive Director)
Jennifer Crespo (General Counsel)
Daniel Thetford
Matthew Haynam
Jerry Wynn
LaWanna Carter
William Marino
Silver Scales (via Webex)
Dominique Mabrey
Paola Ascensio

Natanya Pope-Sohel
John Ioakimidis
Angel Chacon (Intern)
Jade Adeoyo (Intern)
Michael Fowler (Intern)

I. Call to Order/Members Present

On September 24, 2025, at approximately 1:37 p.m., Chair Michael Strom called the meeting of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission (“TIRC” or “Commission”) to order.

Physically present and comprising quorum were Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch, Alternate Commissioner Naomi Johnson. Chair Storm called for a motion to allow Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton to attend remotely due to personal illness but wishes to attend and participate remotely pursuant to Section 7(a)(i) of the Open Meetings Act, the provisions allowing for remote attendance for personal illness or disability. Commissioner del Valle motioned to have Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton to attend remotely and Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to allow Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton to attend remotely

The Commissioners present and able to cast binding votes were Chair Strom, Commissioners Burden, del Valle, and Alternate Commissioners Johnson, Raisch, Walton, and Mahadev.

II. Claims

1. COLEMAN, Joseph (TIRC No. 2018.573-C)

Mr. Coleman’s claim was investigated and analyzed by Case Attorney Natanya Pope-Sohel and Chief Investigative Attorney Matt Haynam. Case Attorney Natanya Pope-Sohel presented this matter to the Commission and Executive Director Evans noted her concurrence with her recommendation. Director Evans noted that this is a summary dismissal recommendation and did not go for formal inquiry; therefore, no notification was required or performed.

No relatives of the victim were present.

No individuals on behalf of Joseph Coleman were present.

This matter was recommended for summary dismissal, and it was voted to summarily dismiss by a 7-0 Commissioner vote with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, Alternate Commissioner Shobha Lakshmi Mahadev. Alternative Commissioner Naomi Johnson, and Alternative Commissioner Sarah Raisch voting to summarily dismiss.

2. JACKSON, Carnell (TIRC No. 2013.166-J)

Mr. Jackson's claim was investigated and analyzed by TIRC pro bono attorneys at University of Chicago's Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, Amrita Krishnan and Craig Futterman, and TIRC Chief Investigative Attorney Daniel Thetford and TIRC Paralegal Paola Ascencio. Amrita Krishnan presented this matter to the Commission and Executive 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, Antonio Stroud, were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Commissioner Burden discussed the claimant's video statement to police while in custody, including whether he was handcuffed and reading from a script. Commissioner Burden discussed whether Jackson's clothes were ever found and if they were introduced at trial. Commissioner Burden also discussed whether there was consistency among Jackson's statements and had questions about the Claimant's addictions and how he functioned. Commissioner Raisch discussed whether there was any record of police confiscating any drugs from Jackson and whether there was any police policy in place dealing with heroine withdrawals at the time Mr. Jackson was incarcerated.

No family members were present on behalf of the victim.

Geneva Allen, the sister of the Claimant, was present and spoke on behalf of the Claimant. The Claimant's sister Jacqueline Simmons was also present.

Jackson's Attorney Courtney Kelledees was present and spoke on behalf of the Claimant. Kelledees mentioned that Jackson had a prior criminal record as an addict (DUI, possession of controlled substance). She also said that Jackson was notably consistent with his statements and that he was also unable to use bathroom facilities and forced to defecate on himself.

This matter was recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was voted to refer by a 7-0 Commissioner vote, with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, Alternate Commissioner Shobha Lakshmi Mahadev, Alternate Commissioner Raisch, and Alternate Commissioner Naomi Johnson voting to refer.

Director Evans thanked the team for their excellent work on this claim.

3. MASON, Anthony (TIRC No. 2013.161-M)

Mr. Mason's claim was investigated and analyzed by Case Attorney Silver Scales and TIRC Chief Investigative Attorney Matthew Haynam. Chief Investigative Attorney presented this matter to the Commission and Executive 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 victims Eddie Baker or Kenneth Brooks Ewing were present, they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Alternate Commissioner Raisch discussed whether the Claimant was asked in his interview if he was denied medical attention and whether the involved detective had prior complaints against him for not providing medical attention. Commissioner del Valle asked whether Claimant's co-defendant had a claim against the detective regarding his withdrawal symptoms and whether that would be applicable to Mason's claim. Chair Strom and Alternate Commissioner Mahadev commented on the difference between a person understanding what he needs and playing a game to get what he wants.

No family members were present on behalf of the victim.

Cornelius Aaron and Jacqueline Aaron were present by phone on behalf of the Claimant but did not speak.

This matter was not recommended for referral, and it was so voted not to refer by a 7-0 Commissioner vote, with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, Alternate Commissioner Johnson, Alternate Commissioner Shobha Lakshmi Mahadev and Alternate Commissioner Raisch voting not to refer.

Director Evans thanked Chief Investigative Attorney Haynam and Case Attorney Silver Scales for their work on the Claim.

4. HENDERSON, Ladell (TIRC No. 2017.507-H)

Mr. Henderson's claim investigated and was presented by Chief Investigative Attorney Daniel Thetford. Mr. Henderson is now deceased. Director Evans noted that this is a summary dismissal recommendation and did not go for formal inquiry; therefore, no notification was required or performed.

Commissioners discussed that it was unfortunate that Claimant is deceased because the Commission does not have jurisdiction to investigate. Chair Strom noted that claims like Mr. Henderson's were not believed in the past. Commissioner del Valle discussed reviewing more cases at meetings.

This matter was recommended for summary dismissal, and it was voted to dismiss by a 7-0 Commissioner vote, with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, Alternate Commissioner Shobha Lakshmi Mahadev, Alternate Commissioner Raisch, and Alternate Commissioner Naomi Johnson voting to dismiss.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes of July 23, 2025 Open Session Minutes

Commissioner Burden commented on the details provided in the Minutes regarding Miguel Fluker and suggested an amendment to include Miguel Fluker's response to Commissioner Burden's question; namely, that Miguel Fluker responded that he could not read and write at that time of his signed written confession. Alternate Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the July 23, 2025 Open Session Minutes as Amended by Commissioner Burden and Alternate Commissioner Mahadev seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the July 23, 2025 Open Session Minutes as Amended.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Director Evans thanked TIRC staff for their work. Director Evans noted that the 2 remaining for TIRC's commission are for the Alternate Chair position and Alternate Former Prosecuting Attorney position. Director Evans reminded commissioners that the last meeting for calendar year 2025 is scheduled for November 19, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. and that commissioners would be asked to vote on the meeting dates for calendar year 2026 at the November 19, 2025 meeting.

V. Public Comment

David Lincoln appeared in person and addressed the Commission regarding his torture claim

Mark Clemens appeared in person and addressed the Commission regarding deceased claimants, staffing, and case movement.

VI. Adjournment

Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton left the meeting approximately 3:10 p.m. Chair Strom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alternate Commissioner Raisch moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner del Valle seconded. Commissioners voted to unanimously to adjourn at 3:14 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 19, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.