



STATE OF ILLINOIS
TORTURE INQUIRY AND RELIEF COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 1:30 p.m.
State of Illinois Building, 555 West Monroe Street, Lincoln Room; Chicago, IL

IN-PERSON AND REMOTE-ACCESSIBLE MEETING

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners Present

Chair Michael Strom
Commissioner Bennett Kaplan
Commissioner Vanessa del Valle
Commissioner Linnet Burden
Commissioner Kafi-Moragne Patterson
Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton
Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Johanes Maliza
Commissioner Erica Zunkel
Commissioner Brian Richardson
Alternate Commissioner Shobha Lakshmi Mahadev
Alternate Commissioner Daniel Fenske
Alternate Commissioner Ivory Snow
Alternate Commissioner Naomi Johnson

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 Adeoye (Intern)
Michael Fowler (Intern)

I. Call to Order/Members Present

On November 19, 2025, at approximately 1:40 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 Bennett Kaplan, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch, and Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton comprising physical quorum.

The Commissioners present and able to cast binding votes were Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Bennett Kaplan, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch, and Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton.

Before the claims were presented, Executive Director, Aryn Evans presented to the Commission the proposed 2026 Commission Meeting dates (January 27, March 24, May 20, July 22, September 23, November 18). Alternate Commissioner Raisch moved to approve the 2026 meeting schedule and Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the 2026 meeting dates.

II. Claims

1. CUBIE, Antwaun (TIRC No. 2013.175-C)

Mr. Cubie’s claim was investigated and analyzed by TIRC's pro-bono team at Kirkland & Ellis, Tamia Beckles, Jose Luis Urteaga, Rebecca Levit, and Michael Esser, as well as TIRC Chief Investigative Attorney Daniel Thetford and TIRC Paralegal Dominique Mabrey. Tamia Beckles 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, Jeremy Bruder, were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Tamia Beckles presented the recommendation to the Commission.

Commissioner Kaplan had comments regarding the consistency of the Claimant’s statements and corroboration of them. Commissioner Kaplan and Chair Strom discussed the definition of a tortured confession and how it applies to a fabricated statement. Commissioner del Valle confirmed that this claim involved a blank sheet of paper that the Claimant was told to sign when

he was interrogated. Commissioner Burden asked questions about gun residue evidence, which the Claimant's attorney answered. Commissioner Burden asked about the involvement of a medical expert and whether there were photographs of the injuries Claimant described, which Tamia Beckles answered. Commissioner Burden also asked about the individuals who visited the Claimant after his interrogation.

Ron Bruder, the father of the murder victim, was present and spoke on behalf of the victim. Also present was the victim's aunt, Patricia Bruder.

Commissioner Burden asked whether the Claimant confessed in court, and Director Evans provided information about the defense the Claimant's attorney raised as well as his defense attorney's ineffective assistance of counsel and disbarment from the practice of law. Director Evans and Tamia Beckles also confirmed that the court transcripts do not include a confession by the Claimant.

Alternate Commissioner Raisch and Chair Strom discussed the claim of insanity.

The Claimant was present via videoconference. Attorney John O'Hara was physically present and spoke on behalf of the Claimant. Attorney Adam Safer was also present. Commissioner Burden asked John O'Hara questions about the defense raised at trial.

This matter was recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was so voted to refer by a 7-0 Commissioner vote, with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, and Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch voting to refer.

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

2. GREER, Ray (TIRC No. 2014.237-G)

Mr. Greer's case was investigated and analyzed by TIRC Case Attorney Silver Scales, Chief Investigative Attorney Daniel Thetford, and Paralegal Dominique Mabrey. Silver Scales 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, Sgt. Hamp McMikel, were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Commissioner del Valle had questions about the consistency of Greer's claims over time.

No family members were present on behalf of the victim.

No family members were present on behalf of the Claimant.

This matter was not recommended for referral and was so voted not to refer by a 7-0 Commissioner vote, with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, and Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch voting not to refer.

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

3. CAMPBELL, Richard (TIRC No. 2011.032-C)

Mr. Campbell's claim was investigated and analyzed by TIRC's pro-bono team at Kirkland & Ellis, Robin Basu, Wyatt Bloomingdale, Rohit Nafday Sunil Sheno, and Jordan Mulder. TIRC Chief Investigative Attorney Daniel Thetford presented the recommendation to the Commission and Executive Director Evans noted her concurrence with the recommendation. Director Evans noted that TIRC did perform 30-day crime victim notification in this matter and that if any relatives of the victims Terrence Willis and Beverly Wright were present, they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Commissioner Burden had questions regarding the involvement of Detective McDermott in this case. Commissioner Burden also had questions about medical records from the Claimant's intake. Commissioner Burden and Director Evans discussed the Claimant's testimony about being under the influence of alcohol and cannabis at the time of his arrest. Commissioner

No family members were present on behalf of the victim.

No family members were present on behalf of the Claimant.

This matter was recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was so voted to refer by a 6-1 Commissioner vote, with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, and Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch voting to refer and Commissioner Linnet Burden voting to not refer.

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

4. ALEXANDER, George (TIRC No. 2016.310-A)

Mr. Alexander's claim was investigated by Erika Doane and Professor Craig Futterman from the University of Chicago Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, as well as TIRC's former Chief Investigative Attorney Matthew Haynam and Paralegals Paola Ascencio and Dominique Mabrey. Erika Doane presented the recommendation to the Commission and Director Evans noted her concurrence with the recommendation. Director Evans noted that TIRC did perform 30-day crime victim notification in this matter and that if any relatives of the victim Officer Michael Cerialle were present they would be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission before it reached a decision.

Chair Strom discussed Area 2.

Commissioner del Valle discussed Detective Halloran's history of torture.

Commissioner Burden had questions about statements provided by the Claimant's mother.

This matter was recommended for referral for further judicial review, and it was so voted to refer by a 7-0 Commissioner vote, with Chair Michael Strom, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, and Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch.

No family members were present on behalf of the victim.

No family members were present on behalf of the Claimant.

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

III. Public Comment

Anthony McFadden provided public comment.

IV. Claims (continued after Public Comment)

5. PILACHOWSKI, Douglas (TIRC No. 2016.273-P)

Director Evans noted that this is a summary dismissal recommendation and did not go to formal inquiry, and no notification was required or performed. Case Attorney John Ioakimidis and Chief Investigative Attorney Daniel Thetford analyzed this case. Case Attorney John Ioakimidis provided a brief summary of the case.

No family members were present for the victim.

No family members were present for the Claimant.

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 Kaplan, Commissioner Vanessa del Valle, Commissioner Linnet Burden, Commissioner Kafi Moragne-Patterson, Alternate Commissioner Tameka Walton, and Alternate Commissioner Sarah Raisch voting to summarily dismiss.

6. BISHOP, Robert (TIRC No. 2016.263-B)

Mr. Bishop withdrew his claim.

V. Review and Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2025 Open Session Minutes

Chair Strom called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner del Valle moved to approve the Minutes and Alternate Commissioner seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Minutes.

VI. Review and Approval of Resolutions Thanking Outgoing Commissioners

Chair Strom called for a motion to approve the Resolution thanking former Alternate Commissioner Bedi and the Resolution thanking former Commissioner Block. Commissioner del Valle moved to approve the Resolutions and Alternate Commissioner Raisch seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Resolutions.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Director Evans recognized TIRC's dedicated team members for their work on the investigations. Director Evans also recognized TIRC's fall interns on their contributions and mission to the agency – Taylor Lennon has joined the TIRC team as our Spring intern and Michael Fowler has returned to us for the Spring. TIRC completed interview for 4 case attorney positions. TIRC has two commissioner vacancies.

VIII. Closed Session

Chair Strom called for a motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act to review past Closed Session Minutes and the General Counsel's recommendations to keep sealed certain portions of past closed session minutes. Commissioner Walton moved to enter Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(21) and Alternate Commissioner Raisch seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to enter Closed Session at approximately PM.

IX. Final Action on Matters Discussed in Closed Session

Commissioners voted unanimously to return to Open Session and the Commission returned to Open Session at approximately 3:53 PM. Chair Strom called for a motion to approve the recommendation (as amended regarding the claim of Christopher Trotter on Page 100 of the Commissioner Books and regarding the discussion of budgetary matters on Page 104 of the Commissioner Books) for certain portions of past closed session minutes to remain sealed. Commissioner del Valle moved to approve the recommendation as amended and Commissioner Moragne-Patterson seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the recommendation as amended for certain portions of past closed session minutes to remain sealed.

X. Adjournment

Chair Strom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alternate Commissioner Walton moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Moragne-Patterson seconded the motion.

Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:56 PM. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:30 PM.