

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

Newsletter

4th Quarter 2024

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights (KCHR), created in 1960, is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act. KCHR consists of 11 Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor. They represent the seven judicial districts of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and also the state-at-large.

COMMISSIONERS

Raymond M. Burse, Chair (State-at-Large)

Devine Carama (5th District)

Lisa Anne Chaney (3rd District)

Dr. James "Jim" Glenn (2nd District)

Bernice P. Henry (7th District)

Rabbi Shlomo Leib Litvin (State-at-Large)

Anita Parra (State-at-Large)

Dr. Doris L. Sarr (1st District)

Rev. Frank M. Smith, Vice-Chair (4th District)

Joan "Toni" Stringer (State-at-Large)

Rick W. Wurth (6th District)

Commission Meetings 2025 Calendar Year

January 16, 2025

February 20, 2025

March 20, 2025

April 17, 2025

May 15, 2025

June 19, 2025

August 21, 2025

September 18, 2025

October 16, 2025

November 20, 2025

Meetings usually occur the 3rd Thursday of the month; begin at 9:00 a.m., and are held virtually and/or at the Louisville office. Occasionally, there are changes to the date and/or location for various reasons.



Congratulations, Juan Pena

Juan Pena, who has worked with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights since 2001 and has been an essential part of this agency, was promoted to Staff Assistant.

Juan possesses excellent communication and organization skills and a commitment to the mission of KCHR. He will manage the Intake, Education and Outreach Unit and plans to make the intake process more efficient and to enhance agency visibility through increased education and outreach activities throughout the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

THE PROTECTOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS,

FILING A COMPLAINT

A person who believes he or she has been illegally discriminated against may contact the Commission and submit an inquiry by phone, mail, email at KCHR.mail@ky.gov, via the website at <https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/KCHR/Complaint/> or in person. This begins the complaint process. Intake staff obtain information and determine if the agency has jurisdiction. Complaints must be filed on a timely basis. Complaints in public accommodations, employment, financial transactions and retaliation must be filed within 180 days of the incident. Housing complaints must be filed within 365 days of the incident. All complaints must be signed and notarized. After we receive the signed and notarized complaint form from you, we can then formally file your complaint.

Once your complaint is formally filed, should you and the person(s) you are charging choose, we can help you to mediate the complaint. Housing complaints are not eligible for mediation.

RESOLVED

In October 2024, twenty-six (26) cases were submitted for executive director review and approval since the September 19, 2024, commission meeting: eighteen (18) employment; five (5) housing; and three (3) public accommodation.

Of the eighteen (18) employment cases, thirteen (13) were no probable cause; and five (5) were withdrawn with settlement.

Of the five (5) housing cases, three (3) were withdrawn with settlement; one (1) was a conciliation; and one (1) was an administrative closure.

The three (3) public accommodation cases were no probable cause.

In November 2024, sixteen (16) cases were submitted for executive director review and approval since the October 17, 2024, commission meeting: fourteen (14) employment and two (2) housing cases.

Of the fourteen (14) employment cases, nine (9) were no probable cause; three (3) were withdrawn with settlement; and two (2) were withdrawal without settlement.

Of the two (2) housing cases, one (1) was withdrawn with settlement; and one (1) was a conciliation.

The three (3) public accommodation cases were no probable cause.

In December 2024, nineteen (19) cases were submitted for executive director review and approval since the November 22, 2024, commission meeting: eleven (11) employment; seven (7) housing; and one (1) public accommodation.

Of the eleven (11) employment cases, seven (7) were no probable cause; three (3) were withdrawn with settlement; and one (1) was withdrawal without settlement.

Of the seven (7) housing cases, five (5) were no probable cause; one (1) was withdrawal with settlement; and one (1) was an administrative closure.

The one (1) public accommodation case was no probable cause.

HAPPENINGS

Resolution In Memory of Reverend Charles Edward Kirby

Ms. Gracie Lewis, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (KAARPR) board member, attended the October 17, 2024, commission meeting to receive a resolution acknowledging the devoted fight for equality and justice for all by the late, **Reverend Charles E. Kirby**



2024 Hall of Fame Inductees

Five (5) new inductees into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame were announced at a special ceremony on November 22, 2024 at the Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

The 2024 Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame inductees are: the late Helen Danser of Berea, William L. Davis of Lexington, the late Louis Porter McHenry of Hopkinsville, Amber Duke of Louisville, and the late Virginia Moore of Willisburg.

The ceremony was emceed by Dr. Alissa Young, President and CEO of Hopkinsville Community College. The afternoon's highlights included the performances two I=Hopkinsville artists, poet Jada Poindexter and soloist Chassity Mumford.

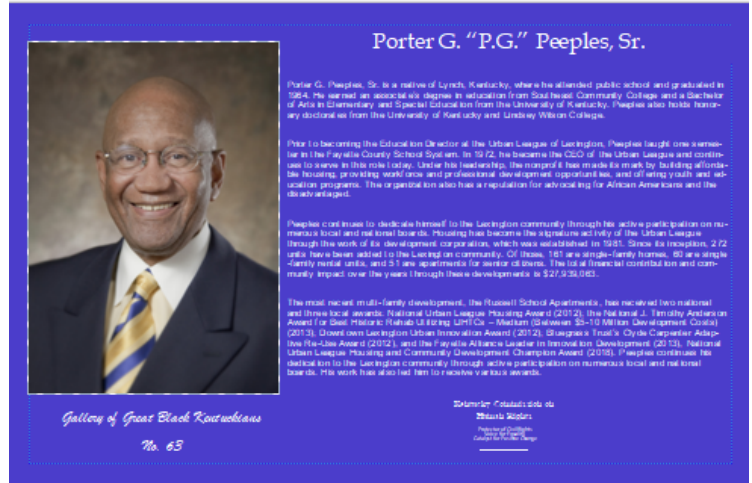


Special thanks to the Hopkinsville Human Rights Commission for their hospitality in November while we were there for the Commission meeting and the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians

The Commission unveiled two new posters for the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians featuring Lexington-Fayette County Urban League President, Porter "P.G." Peeples and former Louisville Urban League President, the late, Benjamin Richmond.

63rd Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians poster, Porter "P.G. Peeples, Sr.



64th Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians poster, the late, Benjamin Keith Richmond.



Mr. P.G. Peeples receives his poster from Human Rights Specialist, Glenda Stovall

Louisville Urban League President, Lyndon Pryor, stands with Ms. Marie Porter after she received the framed poster featuring the Late Ben Richmond

Education and Outreach

The mission of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights (KCHR) is “To eradicate discrimination in the Commonwealth through enforcement of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.” In addition to enforcement to eradicate discrimination, KCHR has an Education and Outreach Unit that focuses primarily on educating the public about their rights and responsibilities under the Kentucky Civil Rights Act. KCHR offers workshops and trainings about fair housing laws, reasonable accommodations, and modifications for qualified individuals with a disability in housing, anti-discrimination employment laws, laws about sexual harassment in the workplace, and the Kentucky Pregnant Workers Act. These trainings are free of charge. The trainings can be designed for specific audiences. KCHR has done trainings for consumers, tenants, housing providers, social service providers, employees, employers, human resource directors, paralegal associations, and city, county and state government agencies. KCHR also has posters and brochures available for free. These educational materials can be downloaded from KCHR’s website at kchr.ky.gov. If you need more information about our trainings or need to request a training, please send an email to kchr.mail@ky.gov.

WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

October 1—Staff Assistant Juan Pena provided a virtual training for Paducah Human Rights Commission about public accommodation laws

November 7—Staff Assistant Juan Pena partnered with Lexington Fair Housing Council to conduct a fair housing workshop for Spanish speaking residents in Lexington.

November 8—Staff Assistant Juan Pena gave presentation to some students at Coleridge Taylor Montessori about KCHR and Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

January 18—Staff Assistant Juan Pena attended Fairness and Justice for All Lunch and Learn event sponsored by Paducah Human Rights Commission.

UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

February 1—Staff Assistant Juan Pena will give a fair housing presentation during a Homeownership class hosted by AKA Sorority, Incorporated in collaboration with REACH from 9 AM—3 PM at Burnett Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

February 13—Staff Assistant Juan Pena will present a virtual fair housing training for A.R. Building Company.

March 5—Staff Assistant Juan Pena will give provide training for the Owensboro Human Rights Commission commissioners.

March 24—Executive Director Cynthia Fox and Staff Assistant Juan Pena will attend the virtual Henderson-Henderson County Human Rights Commission meeting at 5:30 PM CST.



Save the Date
2025

Black History Celebration



Learning from the Past, Facing the Future



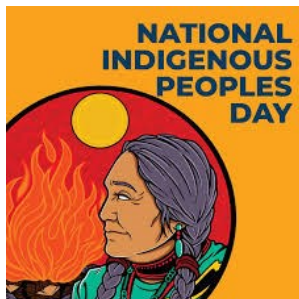
February 6th, 2025 • 11 a.m. • Capitol Rotunda
Presented by the
Kentucky Black Legislative Caucus



The Kentucky Civil Rights Act makes it unlawful to discriminate against people in the areas of employment, financial credit transactions, housing and public accommodations. Discrimination is prohibited in these areas based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, and disability. In employment, discrimination is further prohibited on the basis of age (40 years and over) and on the basis of tobacco-smoking status. In housing, discrimination is further prohibited based on familial status, which protects people with children in the household under the age of 18 years old, and it protects women who are pregnant. It is also a violation of the law to retaliate against a person for reporting or alleging discrimination. For help with discrimination or to make a discrimination complaint, contact the commission at 1-800-292-5566. For more information about the commission and civil rights, visit the website at <https://kchr.ky.gov/>.

Monthly Celebrations and Awareness

October



November



December



Contact information:

312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 020

Louisville, KY 40222

Phone: (502) 595-4024

Fax: (502) 696-5230

Email: kchr.mail@ky.gov

Website: kchr.ky.gov