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U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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BUSINESS MEETING

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

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The Commission convened via
Videoconference at 10:01 a.m. EDT, Rochelle
Garza, Chair, presiding.

PRESENT:

ROCHELLE GARZA, Chair

VICTORIA NOURSE, Vice Chair

J. CHRISTIAN ADAMS, Commissioner

STEPHEN GILCHRIST, Commissioner

MONDAIRE JONES, Commissioner

SARA FRANKENSTEIN, Commissioner

PETER KIRSANOW, Commissioner

GLENN MAGPANTAY, Commissioner

MARIK XAVIER-BRIER, Acting Staff Director

DAVID GANZ, General Counsel and
Parliamentarian

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1 STAFF PRESENT:
2 DONALD BATES
3 DAVID BELL
4 JULIAN NELSON, ASCD
5 ESSENCE PERRY, ASCD

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(10:01 a.m.)

CHAIR GARZA: Good morning, everyone.

The business meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights comes to order at 10:01 Eastern Time on Friday, August 21st, 2026. This meeting is taking place via telephone conference. I'm Rochelle Garza, Chair of the Commission.

Just a few housekeeping matters. Is the court reporter present?

THE COURT REPORTER: Yes. Good morning.

CHAIR GARZA: Great. Good morning.

Is the Acting Staff Director present?

MR. XAVIER-BRIER: Yes, I am. Good morning.

CHAIR GARZA: Good morning.

Is the Parliamentarian present?

MR. GANZ: I'm here, yes.

CHAIR GARZA: Okay. Good morning. Thank you. I'd like to begin the call with -- begin this meeting with a roll call. Please confirm your presence when I call your name.

Vice Chair Nourse?

VICE CHAIR NOURSE: Present.

CHAIR GARZA: Commissioner Adams?

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1 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

2 CHAIR GARZA: Commissioner Frankenstein?

3 COMMISSIONER FRANKENSTEIN: I'm present.

4 CHAIR GARZA: Great. Commissioner

5 Gilchrist?

6 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: I'm here.

7 CHAIR GARZA: Commissioner Jones?

8 COMMISSIONER JONES: Present.

9 CHAIR GARZA: Commissioner Kirsanow?

10 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Here.

11 CHAIR GARZA: Commissioner Magpantay?

12 COMMISSIONER MAGPANTAY: I'm here. Can
13 you hear me?

14 CHAIR GARZA: Great. Yes, I can hear
15 you. All right, wonderful. Good morning.

16 Based on that, we do have a quorum of
17 Commissioners. Everyone is present. And before
18 we proceed with the approval of the agenda, I want
19 to make sure that the record reflects that on July
20 21st, 2026, the Commission unanimously adopted its
21 Statutory Enforcement Report, the Federal Response
22 to Anti-Semitism on College and University
23 Campuses, through a notational vote.

24 This report reflects the Commission's
25 bipartisan commitment to protecting the civil

1 rights of students while also recognizing the
2 importance of lawful expression and academic
3 freedom. Every student deserves the freedom to
4 learn, speak, and participate fully in campus life
5 without fear of harassment, intimidation, or
6 discrimination. The Commission's work makes clear
7 that protecting civil rights and protecting free
8 expression are not competing obligations.
9 Colleges and universities must be able to uphold
10 both, and they must do so in a way that protects
11 the rights of everyone on campus.

12 And so I want to specifically recognize
13 Commissioners Peter Kirsanow and Commissioner
14 Mondaire Jones for their leadership on this
15 bipartisan investigation, as well as the
16 Commission staff and the many, many students,
17 faculty members, experts, advocates, and members
18 of the public who contributed to this work.

19 The report is scheduled for public
20 release in September and is going to be
21 transmitted to the President and Congress. So,
22 there will be more forthcoming on that.

23 We are going to go ahead and proceed with
24 today's agenda as noticed in the Federal Register.

25 Today's agenda includes a discussion and vote on

1 fiscal year 2027 report topics, specifically the
2 Fiscal Year 2027 Statutory Enforcement Report,
3 Beyond the Border: The State of Civil Rights Under
4 Federal Immigration Enforcement in America's
5 Communities, and Fiscal Year 2027 Briefing Report,
6 Protecting and Promoting the Civil Rights of Aging
7 and Disabled Persons in Senior and Long-Term Care
8 Facilities and Managed Care, followed by the Staff
9 Director's Report.

10 Are there any motions to amend the
11 agenda?

12 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Madam Chair, Adams.

13 CHAIR GARZA: Yes, Commissioner Adams,
14 you're recognized.

15 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: I move to amend the
16 agenda to include a discussion and vote on
17 President Trump's designee to be Staff Director of
18 this Commission, namely one Carissa Mulder, a
19 designation which was made many, many, many months
20 ago. That's my motion.

21 COMMISSIONER FRANKENSTEIN: Second by
22 Commissioner Frankenstein.

23 CHAIR GARZA: Okay, Commissioners. As
24 I've said before, Commissioner Adams, I'm going to
25 have to rule your motion out of order due to the

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1 fact that we have not received word from the White
2 House about whether or not they are seeking the
3 concurrence of the Commission. You know, it's
4 been months, and we have not heard back. And so
5 I'm going to have to rule it out of order so we
6 can go ahead and --

7 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Parliamentary
8 inquiry. Parliamentary inquiry. It's Adams.

9 CHAIR GARZA: Yes, Commissioner?

10 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Parliamentary
11 inquiry to Chair. Are you saying that (audio
12 interference).

13 CHAIR GARZA: I cannot hear Commissioner
14 Adams.

15 COMMISSIONER MAGPANTAY: Christian, I
16 think you went mute.

17 (Simultaneous speaking.)

18 MR. NELSON: I think he accidentally left
19 the meeting. He's not showing up in the meeting.

20 CHAIR GARZA: Okay. Well, I think we're
21 going to go ahead and move on. We still have the
22 discussion and vote ahead of us. All right.
23 Let's move on to our report topics.

24 Our first order of business is a
25 discussion and vote on the Commissions' fiscal

1 year 2027 report topics. The Commission will
2 consider the two proposed reports, Fiscal Year '27
3 Statutory Enforcement Report, the proposal
4 entitled Beyond the Border: The State of Civil
5 Rights Under Federal Immigration Enforcement in
6 America's Communities, and Commissioner
7 Gilchrist's proposal entitled Protecting and
8 Promoting the Civil Rights of Aging and Disabled
9 Persons in Senior and Long-Term Facilities and
10 Managed Care.

11 I move to adopt these two topics as the
12 Commission's Fiscal Year '27 Statutory Enforcement
13 Report and Fiscal Year '27 Briefing Report. Do we
14 have a second?

15 VICE CHAIR NOURSE: Second.

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Madam Chair,
17 Kirsanow here. I propose that we suspend for a
18 moment until Commissioner Adams can rejoin.
19 Obviously, he had a motion to make. I think we
20 should wait until he rejoins the meeting so we can
21 hear what the motion is and vote upon it.

22 CHAIR GARZA: We're in the middle of -- a
23 motion has been made and seconded at this point,
24 Commissioner Kirsanow. When he rejoins, we can
25 consider his motion once he does make it.

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1 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Madam Chair,
2 Gilchrist here.

3 CHAIR GARZA: Yes, Commissioner
4 Gilchrist. Go ahead.

5 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: No, I just want
6 to echo Commissioner Kirsanow's comment regarding
7 Commissioner Adams. I know we were having some
8 earlier issues with our technology, and so I would
9 hope that we could at least give him an
10 opportunity to weigh back in if, in fact, that is
11 an issue on his end.

12 CHAIR GARZA: And just for -- as I said,
13 we're in the middle of a discussion and vote. A
14 motion has been made and properly seconded with
15 regards to this particular issue. Once he
16 returns, he can go ahead and make his motion. I
17 will recognize him.

18 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: He also needs to
19 be able to vote on this matter as well, Madam
20 Chair.

21 CHAIR GARZA: Is there any discussion and
22 vote on this motion that has been properly moved
23 and seconded? I mean, I can start to explain the
24 reasons -- I mean, we can go ahead and call to
25 question if there's no discussion.

1 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I would move that
2 -- again, I recommend that we wait for a moment
3 for Commissioner Adams. Clearly, he had some
4 technical difficulty. I'm sure he can find
5 alternate means by which to resume participating
6 in the meeting.

7 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Was that
8 Commissioner Kirsanow? Because I could barely
9 hear.

10 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Yes, that was me.
11 I'm not sure what's wrong..

12 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER JONES: Madam Chair, this is
14 Commissioner Jones. May I make an inquiry?

15 CHAIR GARZA: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER JONES: It would appear as
17 though some of our colleagues are familiar with
18 whatever motion Commissioner Adams was attempting
19 to make before he lost connectivity. And so, are
20 they able to make the same motion in his absence,
21 or does it have to come from him?

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

23 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: This is Kirsanow.

24 I'm not sure exactly what -- I think he is -- I
25 think he has a -- I'm not sure exactly what the

1 motion is. But I'm going to have to suspend at
2 this particular time.

3 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: So --

4 CHAIR GARZA: I'm not sure what that
5 means. Would you like to take -- are they still
6 with us? Can someone on our tech team confirm
7 which Commissioners are still on this call?

8 MR. NELSON: Yes. We have Commissioner
9 Magpantay, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner
10 Frankenstein, Commissioner Nourse, and --

11 CHAIR GARZA: And myself. Okay.

12 MR. NELSON: And yourself. Commissioner
13 Adams, Commissioner Kirsanow, and Commissioner
14 Gilchrist are not in the meeting. According to my
15 producer, there was nothing on our end that caused
16 it.

17 CHAIR GARZA: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER FRANKENSTEIN: This is
19 Commissioner Frankenstein. I am also signing off.
20 Have a good one.

21 CHAIR GARZA: All right. Well --

22 MR. NELSON: And I also sent an email to
23 Commissioner Adams for the rejoin link before.

24 CHAIR GARZA: Okay. Why don't we take a
25 two-minute recess and see if we can get everybody

1 back online so we can continue this meeting?
2 Because we're in the middle of a motion and -- or
3 discussion and vote. So can we do that?

4 MR. NELSON: Yes. Yes, that's fine.

5 CHAIR GARZA: Let's take a quick recess
6 and see if we can get folks back online before we
7 adjourn.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9 went off the record at 10:12 a.m. and resumed at
10 10:21 a.m.)

11 CHAIR GARZA: We are reconvening at 10:21
12 a.m. Eastern Time. We have lost quorum at this
13 point. A majority of the Commissioners are no
14 longer present for this meeting, so we cannot
15 continue conducting business. The motion that was
16 made and seconded, which we were in the middle of
17 discussion and vote on, will be taken up at the
18 next business meeting.

19 So we are adjourned at 10:21 Eastern
20 Time. Have a good day.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 10:21 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this matter was taken; and further that I am not a relative nor an employee of any of the parties nor counsel employed by the parties, and I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Michael Morris

Michael Morris

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