

**MINUTES  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012**

Vice Chair Dillon called the 241th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:40 PM

- **WELCOME**

**Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Mary Alcock, Monica Bauer Federman, Mark Dillon, Gagandeep Kaur, Mitz Lee, George Mitrovich, Gracia Molina de Pick, Joyce Singer Abrams, Joel Trambley

**Excused:** Bruce Abrams, Tiffany Harrison, Shonee Henry, Lorena Slomanson

**Absent:** Patricia Washington

**Staff:** Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Karen Li, Deputy City Attorney; Lori Thacker, Deputy City Attorney, Pam Holmberg, Labor Relations

**Public Comment:**

Gary Lynn briefly addressed the Commission on the SAFE California initiative that would replace California's death penalty with life without possibility of parole. Mr. Lynn requested the Commission encourage the Council and Mayor to support the initiative which will be on the November ballot.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Trambley to approve the April 18, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abrams. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recognition and appreciation for Deputy City Attorney Lori Thacker.**

Deputy City Attorney Lori Thacker was recognized and thanked for her service to the Commission.

- **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

**Brown Act and Public Records Act Training**

Deputy City Attorney Lori Thacker presented information on California's open meeting law, the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Brown Act insures that all public commission, board and Council meetings shall be open and public. The definition of meeting, serial meeting, open and closed, legislation vs. ballot issue, and attend and participate were all discussed. The rules of political activity and the use of public funds were also reviewed. Commissioners can attend events wearing their name badges but need to make sure it is understood that they are attending as individuals not as spokespersons for the full Commission. The Commission can take a position on a ballot issue but are not allowed to use any City resources to advocate.

Ms. Thacker also quickly reviewed the Public Records Act (PRA). Any citizen can request public records (emails, documents, memos). Commissioners need to keep in mind that all emails regarding Commission business are public records regardless of whether they were sent from a private computer. The City Attorney's Office provides guidance on these requests.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

**New Business**

**1. Proposal for HRC protocol in responding to Hate Crime event.**

Intern Jonathan Parker presented a draft package of information proposed to be a tool kit the Commission could use to reach out to hate crime victims. Mr. Parker explained the thinking behind the contents of the package and how the package could help the victims. The Commission thanked him for his hard work and suggestions. It was suggested that the Hate Motivated Behavior Committee take the lead in developing the protocol and recommending future Commission action.

**Old Business**

**1. Update HRC 2012 Priority Committees and Work Plan**

- a. Hate Motivated Behavior** - No new update
- b. Education**- No new update
- c. Immigration Rights**- Executive Director Scarborough attended the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC) meeting. The Border Coalition and SDIRC have asked for justice in the death of undocumented immigrant Anastasio Rojas Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez was killed while in custody when he crossed the US/Mexico border. His death happened almost two years ago and there has not been an investigation. State Senate Bill 1064 would give consideration to undocumented immigrant parents who are detained and their US citizen children. Currently the US citizen children of detained undocumented immigrants are separated from their parents and placed in foster care/placed up for adoption with no consideration of keeping them with other family members. It was suggested that Senate Bill 1064 be placed on the agenda for June so the Commission could consider supporting it.
- d. Access Issues**- The Commission received a response from County Supervisor Ron Robert's office regarding their letter about the County's management of the CalFresh program. The response provided no new insight as to progress with the 69 recommendations. The Commissioner's expressed their frustration and concern. Commissioner Abrams suggested the Commission express their concern directly to the County Board of Supervisors. Executive Director Scarborough will coordinate with the Access Issues Committee on an action plan.
- e. Special Projects** - No new update
- f. Outreach and Advocacy** - No new update
- g. Media and Communications** - No new update
- h. Discrimination Complaints** - No new update

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

**Chair's Report**

**1. Harvey Milk Street and Hillcrest Pride Flag Project**

Both issues were successfully passed by Council. The Commission was thanked for its support of the two projects.

**2. Community Statement regarding Minister Farrakhan's visit**

The ADL is issuing a community statement condemning Minister Farrakhan's use of Hate Speech. The Commission will join the ADL in signing the statement.

**Commissioners' Report:** There were no reports

**Executive Director's Report:**

**1. CAHRO Conference**

Executive Director Scarborough asked the Commissioner's to hold November 16 on their calendars for attendance at the annual CAHRO Conference

**2. Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast, May 25**

Please contact Executive Director Scarborough to secure tickets for this event.

**3. Diversity Day, June 10**

The Commission will be a sponsor for this event at the Children's Museum.

**4. Human Rights Campaign Gala, August 18**

Please contact Commissioner Trambley for tickets for this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.