

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**

Chair Abrams called the 245nd meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:40 PM

- **WELCOME**

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Mary Alcock, Monica Bauer Federman, Gracia Molina de Pick, Mark Dillon, Shonee Henry, Gagandeep Kaur, George Mitrovich, Joyce Singer Abrams, Lorena Slomanson, Patricia Washington

Leave of Absence: Tiffany Harrison is on an approved leave of absence.

Not Present: Mitz Lee, Joel Trambley

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Alcock to approve the August 15, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

- **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

Overview of District, Academic Initiatives, Student Performance Data

Bernie Rhinerson, Chief of Staff, San Diego Unified School District

Mr. Rhinerson provided the Commission with a progress report on the San Diego Unified School District. The District's mission is "All San Diego students will graduate with the skills, motivation, curiosity and resilience to succeed in their choice of college and career in order to lead and participate in the society of tomorrow." With over 131,500 students they are the second largest school district in California and have 228 educational facilities. The District is constantly striving to boost overall achievement levels, create schools as neighborhood centers, engage parents and the community and provide quality teaching. Academic growth has been seen in testing in all areas, including Math, English Language Arts, Science, History and the California High School Exit Exam. They strive to continue to improve academic growth and use the testing to help see where further assistance is needed for students. San Diego has the lowest dropout rate of any urban area in California. These achievements have been met even with budget cuts of over \$450 million over the last five years. Mr. Rhinerson asked the Commission to review Propositions 30, 38 and Z that will be on the ballot in November and consider expressing their support.

No on Proposition 34 – Death Penalty Repeal

Brenda Daly, Deputy District Attorney

Ms. Daly was unable to attend tonight's meeting and was not able to locate a substitute.

Commissioner Washington made a motion that the Commission send a letter to the Mayor and Council expressing their support of Proposition 34. The motion was amended to include a resolution of the Commission expressing their support of Proposition 34 as well as a letter to Mayor and Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillon and passed unanimously.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

New Business

1. Approval of new Human Relations Commission logo
The Commissioners reviewed the three logo options. After a discussion and vote a new logo was selected.
2. Proposed protocol for Human Relations Commission presentations
Executive Director Scarborough discussed the proposed protocol for presenters to the Human Relations Commission. The guidelines would be used to decide who would be invited to speak and also as a tool to give speakers so they know what to expect. Commissioner Washington made a motion that the proposed protocols be made formal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry and passed unanimously.
3. Proposed protocol for Human Relations Commission media response
This item will be discussed at the October meeting.
4. Proposed protocol for response to crisis situations
The item will be discussed at the October meeting.
5. Approval of November and December Commission meeting date changes to November 16, 2012 and December 12, 2012
Executive Director Scarborough asked the Commission to approve moving the November meeting to Friday, November 16. This meeting will be the awards ceremony and they are hoping to attract a larger crowd by moving to a Friday. It was unanimously approved.
It was suggested that the meeting in December be moved to December 12 to avoid conflicting with holidays. It was unanimously approved.
6. Approval of meeting location change to Community Concourse.
There was discussion on what location the Commission preferred to meet at; the Balboa Park Club or the City Concourse. It was decided to meet at the City Concourse for six months and then reassess at that time.

Old Business

1. Update from HRC 2012 Priority Committees
Hate Motivated Behavior – Gagandeep Kaur, Chair
The Committee is planning a forum on Hate Crime Education for the faith communities for November 4. They are in the planning phase and will have details next month.

Education – Commissioner Mitz Lee, Committee Chair No report.

Immigrant Rights – Vice Chair Mark Dillon, Committee Chair
Commissioner Slomanson disseminated information on the Dreamers Act and where people can obtain more information.

Access Issues – Commissioner Lorena Slomanson, Committee Chair
Commissioner Slomanson is working to connect with UMI to see what assistance the Commission can provide.

Special Projects – Commissioner Mary Alcock, Committee Chair
The sub-committee is continuing to work on proposed changes to the City's Municipal Code.

Media and Communications – Joel Trambley, Committee Chair No report.

Outreach and Advocacy – Chair Bruce Abrams, Committee Chair No report.

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

Chair's Report

1. Stand with Us First Annual Celebration: "Onward and Upward" was a success.
2. ICWJ's Annual Voices for Justice Breakfast: Thursday, December 6, 2012, 7:30 – 9:30 AM The Commission will participate.

Commissioners' Report:

Executive Director's Report:

1. Hate Crime Statistics from the State Attorney General
The latest Hate Crime statistics showed an overall decrease in hate crimes. There was however, an increase in religious based crimes.
2. Hiring a new analyst to support the Commission/Citizens' Review Board
Executive Director Scarborough reported that she will be hiring a new analyst and hopes to have the person on board by the end of October. This new position will be a great help at keeping up with the work load.
3. "Healing Our Community" – coordinating a Know Your Rights session for the City Heights Neighborhood Dialogue, October 29, 2012
Executive Director Scarborough with working with the Gang Commission and Councilmember Emerald's office to coordinate this event.
4. CAHRO Update – Conference moved from November to April 2013.
Executive Director Scarborough will keep the Commissioners apprised of the date of the conference once it is announced.

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