

**MINUTES  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2010**

**Commissioners Present:** Joyce Abrams, Teresa Oyos, Tiffany Harrison, Mitz Lee, Roberto Shim, Bruce Abrams, Mark Dillon, Shonee Henry, Gary Lynn, George Mitrovich, Nicole Murray Ramirez

**Excused:** Mary Alcock, Carolina Ramos

**Absent:** Gracia Molina de Pick

**Staff Present:** Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Rimah Khouri, Labor Relations Officer

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- a. **Call to Order:** Chair Abrams called the 219th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:33 p.m.
- b. **Roll Call:** 11 Commissioners were present, 2 excused, and 1 absent.
- c. **Approval of Minutes**
  - ✓ Motioned by Commissioner Dillon to approve the May 19, 2010 Minutes
  - ✓ Seconded by Commissioner Henry
  - ✓ Motion passed unanimously

**II. PRESENTATIONS**

**a. Equal Benefits Ordinance**

Council Member Todd Gloria, Council District 3 City of San Diego  
Pam Ison, Council District 3 Representative

Council Member Gloria presented information on the Equal Benefits Ordinance (EBO) and explained the objective is “equal pay for equal work”. He stated that the City of San Diego Rules Committee will hear this item. The EBO first passed in San Francisco in the mid 1990s. The Ordinance would require the City contractors who provide benefits to employees with spouses must provide the same benefits to employees with domestic partners. Commissioner Dillon asked how many contracts the City currently maintains and Council Member Gloria stated efforts are underway to determine how many contracts do not provide equal benefits.

- ✓ Motioned by Commissioner Ramirez to draft a letter in support of the EBO
- ✓ Seconded by Commissioner J. Abrams
- ✓ Motion passed unanimously

**b. Caring Council’s Analysis of the Food Stamp Program**

Pastor Wayne Riggs, Plymouth Congressional Church, North Park  
Dr. William Oswald, Springfield College

The presenters stated that the Caring Council’s creation was triggered by the Welfare Reform Act and is a grass roots organization. They presented information from their research study publications citing that the County has not resolved the Food Stamp problems and that a recent article in the Voice of San Diego also identified problems. Commissioner Mitrovich questioned if there is a low commitment level to the program of the employees of such a large agency. Dr.

Oswald responded that in their participation surveys, participant responses indicated experiences of disinterest to offensive with call center employees; the results indicate an organizational behavior problem. Commissioner Ramirez asked if demographic data can be provided by Council District. Dr. Oswald indicated the data is maintained by regions only. Commissioner Ramirez asked if County Supervisors have become concerned or not. Dr. Oswald stated that Supervisor Roberts is beginning to help out. Commissioner Lynn asked if there is an existing model that program can adopt. Dr. Oswald indicated that the Caring Council's next project is to perform a best practices study.

- ✓ Motioned by Commissioner B. Abrams to draft a letter of concern to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors regarding the under use of the Food Stamp Program and to copy the City Council.
- ✓ Seconded by Commissioner Ramirez
- ✓ Motion passed unanimously

### **III. BUSINESS**

#### **a. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **i. Update on UCSD's work on diversity and inclusion issues**

Danny Widener, Professor, UCSD History Department

Mr. Widener presented there is a sense of cautious optimism on campus as the university has accepted many of the actions requested by the student but not yet agreed to appoint a chief diversity officer. The medical school side of the university has a chief diversity officer, Dr. Sandra Daly and UCLA and UC Berkley also have one. The university has shifted away from being responsive to the local community due to the fact that major funding sources come from the federal government tied to industry. Commissioner Mitrovich asked if Mr. Widener could come back with students to discuss this further in September.

- ✓ Motioned by Commissioner Harrison to draft a letter of concern of the on-going matter and what has been done.
- ✓ Seconded by Commissioner Lynn
- ✓ Motion passed unanimously

##### **ii. Update on Arizona SB 1070 and related issues/events**

Executive Director Scarborough shared that the SDIRC keeps the Commission updated and involved in this issue. Durham, North Carolina is pursuing a boycott and thanked our Commission for providing the wording and background materials for their effort.

- ✓ Motioned by Commissioner Ramirez to forward a copy of the original HRC letter on this issue to additional organizations and elected officials
- ✓ Seconded by Commissioner Henry
- ✓ Motion passed unanimously

##### **iii. Update on progress regarding reestablishing a County HRC**

Commissioner Ramirez stated that there is a meeting scheduled on July 21<sup>st</sup> in the County's DA Office. County Supervisors Roberts and Cox are supportive of bringing back the HRC. A diverse group of people are requested to attend.

##### **iv. Update on CAHRO application**

Executive Director Scarborough stated that she mailed the application with payment to join.

**b. NEW BUSINESS**

**i. Soliciting nominations and conducting vote for Commission Vice Chair**

- ✓ Motioned by Commissioner Ramirez to nominate Commissioner Henry as Vice Chair
- ✓ Seconded by Commissioner Lee
- ✓ Motion passed unanimously

**ii. Overview of Competition and Transparency in City Contracting Initiative**

Executive Director Scarborough stated there will be two groups to present both side on July 21<sup>st</sup> and the Council is scheduled to take a vote on July 26<sup>th</sup> to add to the election ballot.

**IV. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**a. Resignation and appreciation of Vice Chair Susan Hawk**

**b. HRC participation in Education Consortium**

Only former Executive Director Walker attended. HRC will continue to receive information via e-mail and keep updated as issues unfold.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Scarborough reminded Commissioners there is a tour of the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Hall Facilities scheduled for Monday, June 21st at 9:00 a.m.

**VI. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

- a. AB 1680 hate Crimes Protection Act
- b. AB 2706 Adding Homelessness to Protected Status
- c. AB 2401 CSU Campus Priority Admission to local students

No report available on these bills. Executive Director Scarborough stated Interns will be recruited to assist with keeping up on legislative issues. Commissioner Harrison stated she will assist in serving as a liaison.

**VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Alcock mentioned the Women's 10<sup>th</sup> Victory Fund Brunch on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED:**

- ✓ Motioned by Commissioner Ramirez to adjourn
- ✓ Seconded by Commissioner Lee
- ✓ Motion passed unanimously

**Prepared by Rimah Khouri, Labor Relations Officer**

**Approved by Danell Scarborough, Executive Director**