Proposed Protocol for Community Listening Sessions on the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution

Purpose

The purpose of these listening sessions is to provide an inclusive, respectful, and structured opportunity for community members, stakeholders, faith leaders, advocacy organizations, subject matter experts, and impacted individuals to share their perspectives regarding the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution and its potential implications for human rights, peace, equity, and community relations.

The listening sessions are intended to gather community input, foster dialogue, promote understanding, and inform recommendations that may be considered by the San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) and subsequently transmitted to the San Diego City Council.

Guiding Principles

The listening sessions shall be guided by the following principles:

1. Respect for diverse viewpoints and lived experiences.
2. Commitment to civil discourse and constructive dialogue.
3. Recognition of the dignity and humanity of all individuals.
4. Transparency in process and reporting.
5. Inclusion of historically marginalized and impacted communities.
6. Focus on human rights, equity, and community well-being.

Listening Session Structure

Phase 1: Planning and Outreach

The HRC shall:

- Identify community stakeholders and organizations representing diverse perspectives.
- Invite participation from faith-based organizations, cultural groups, civil rights organizations, educational institutions, youth representatives, and impacted communities.
- Provide educational materials summarizing the UNGA Resolution and its relevant context.
- Ensure accessibility, including language interpretation and ADA accommodations where feasible.

Phase 2: Community Listening Sessions

Each listening session shall include:

Opening Remarks

- Welcome by HRC representative.
- Explanation of purpose and goals.
- Review of community agreements and expectations.

Community Agreements

Participants will be asked to:

- Speak from personal experience.
- Respect differing viewpoints.
- Avoid personal attacks or inflammatory language.
- Allow others equal opportunity to speak.
- Focus comments on issues, concerns, and recommendations.

Public Testimony

Participants shall be provided equal opportunity to share:

- Personal experiences.
- Community concerns.
- Human rights implications.
- Recommendations for action.

Time limits may be established to ensure broad participation.

Facilitated Dialogue

When appropriate, trained facilitators may guide discussion to:

- Clarify concerns.
- Identify common themes.
- Encourage respectful engagement.
- Explore opportunities for community understanding and healing.

Phase 3: Documentation and Analysis

The HRC shall:

- Collect written and oral testimony.
- Identify recurring themes and concerns.
- Summarize areas of agreement and disagreement.
- Develop a comprehensive report reflecting community input.

Deliverables

The final report shall include:

1. Executive Summary
2. Background Information
3. Summary of Community Participation
4. Key Themes Identified
5. Human Rights Considerations
6. Community Recommendations
7. HRC Findings and Recommendations

Recommended Actions for the Human Relations Commission

Following completion of the listening sessions, the Human Relations Commission should consider the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Receive and Adopt the Listening Session Report

The HRC should formally review, receive, and adopt a report summarizing community input and identified themes.

Recommendation 2: Transmit Findings to the San Diego City Council

The HRC should provide the report and accompanying recommendations to the San Diego City Council for consideration.

Recommendation 3: Encourage Continued Community Engagement

The City Council should be encouraged to continue engaging affected communities and stakeholders on issues related to human rights, peacebuilding, inclusion, and equity.

Recommendation 4: Reaffirm the City's Commitment to Human Rights

The HRC should recommend that the City Council reaffirm San Diego's commitment to:

- Human dignity.
- Civil rights.
- Religious freedom.
- Freedom from discrimination.
- Peaceful coexistence among diverse communities.

Recommendation 5: Consider a Council Resolution

Following review of community input, the HRC may recommend that the City Council consider a resolution that reflects:

- Community concerns and aspirations.
- Principles of human rights and equity.
- Commitment to respectful dialogue and inclusion.
- Support for peaceful solutions and community unity.

Proposed Timeline

Month 1:

- HRC approval of listening session framework.
- Stakeholder outreach and planning.

Month 2:

- Conduct listening sessions.

Month 3:

- Analyze feedback and prepare report.

Month 4:

- Present findings and recommendations to HRC.
- Transmit approved recommendations to the San Diego City Council.

Conclusion

The Human Relations Commission is uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge between communities and local government. Through thoughtful listening, respectful engagement, and a commitment to human rights principles, the Commission can help ensure that diverse community voices are heard and considered in any recommendations forwarded to the San Diego City Council.