

**MINUTES  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011**

**Commissioners Present:** Bruce Abrams, Joyce Singer Abrams, Mary Alcock, Gracia Molina de Pick, Mark Dillon, , Tiffany Harrison, Gary Lynn, George Mitrovich, Teresa Oyos

**Excused:** Mary Alcock, Shonee Henry, Roberto Shim, Mitz Lee

**Absent:** Nicole Murray Ramirez

**Staff:** Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Pam Holmberg, Labor Relations

Chair Abrams called the 233rd meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:38 PM

- **WELCOME**

**Roll Call**

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Lynn to approve the July 20, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oyos. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

There was no non-agenda public comment.

- **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

**Redistricting in City of San Diego - Update and Early Review of Process**

**Midori Wong, Chief of Staff, Redistricting Commission**

**Mateo Camarillo, Chairman, Latino Redistricting Committee**

**Dr. Allen Chan, Asian and Pacific American Coalition**

**Linda Perine, Chair, LGBT Redistricting Taskforce**

**Brian Pollard, Chair, 4th District Redistricting Committee**

Midori Wong provided the Commission with an overview of the Redistricting Commission's process, outreach and conclusions. The long process has included a great deal of work by the Commission to follow all of the directives and laws of redistricting while considering the input of the community. The Commission issued its preliminary plan on July 21. Additional community input has been considered and the Commission will be releasing an updated plan on August 18. The vote on the plan will take place on August 25 and five of the seven Commissioners must agree on the plan for it to become final. There will be meetings on August 18 and 25 to hear input from the communities before the final vote. Once the redistricting plan is approved the Commissions will issue a final report and then their work will be completed.

Chair Abrams invited the members of the panel to discussion their impressions of the redistricting process and if they felt their constituent's concerns were addressed.

Mateo Camarillo, Chairman of the Latino Redistricting Committee, felt that the Redistricting Commission worked very hard but in the end they weren't watching out for all. He was happy that the new voting district could add a voice to the Latino community but felt some of the areas that were put together in districts didn't make sense and could dilute the opportunity to elect the representative of their choice. He did not feel the intent of the law was upheld and was unhappy with the district areas. He commended the Committee for their community outreach and education but was very disappointed that they only provided Spanish translation at limited meetings.

Brian Pollard, Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> District Redistricting Committee, worked hard within the District to educate the constituents on the effects redistricting could have. He felt the Commission did a great job with its outreach and listening to all the different information they were bombarded with. District 4 was satisfied with their redistricting area. There may have been other options that may have made them happier but they were able to achieve their goals. It is a very difficult process with many different opinions and goals and many difficult compromises made. He didn't agree with the consistency of some of the decisions. He felt the process also exposed the racism that is still a major problem in America. He felt all Americans need to have a continuous dialog on racism to make ourselves a better and stronger country.

Dr. Allan Chan, co-chair of the Asian and Pacific American Coalition, did not feel empowered by the process. He felt the Asian and Pacific American voice was neglected and ignored. The areas of the City with predominant Asian and Pacific American populations have been split into different districts and they will not be well represented. He also felt communities with little in common were put together in districts and he couldn't understand why.

Linda Perine, Chair of the LGBT Redistricting Taskforce, had a different, more positive perspective on the redistricting process. Although the final redistricting map doesn't please anyone 100% it is still a victory for all parties involved. The Commission had many standards and rules to consider beyond the input of the communities and everything is a matter of compromise. She felt the redistricting should help to elect representatives that look much like San Diego's population.

Chair Abrams thanked the panel members for their hard work and dedication and presented each with a commendation from the Human Relations Commission.

- **Update on Civic Engagement Project in City Heights**  
**Dana Brown, Community Activist**

Community Activist Dana Brown is working to improve City Heights and the lives of those who live there. They are working with the California Endowment to strengthen the community through education and advocacy and to promote leadership and peace. The City Heights area was chosen because of its economic struggles and the diversity of its population. Her special interest is working with you youth to give them the skill sets to change the world. She is heading up a Wellness and Restorative Practice partnership

with 20 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 20 6<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Cherokee Point neighborhood. She works along with SDSU students to teach them peace promotion, decision making and leadership skills to form the community leaders of tomorrow.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

**Old Business**

**1. Updates - Commission's 2011 Priority Issues and Work Plan**

**a. Hate Motivated Behavior**

Commissioner Harrison reported they have selected a date in October for their event. The subcommittee will meet in September to finalize coordination of the event.

**b. Immigrant Rights and Reform**

No report.

**c. Educational Disparities**

The committee contacted School Board member John Lee Evans about getting a youth commissioner. They will follow up with him. They are also exploring various legal issues of having a youth member such as length of term, age limits, and voting rights. The goal is to have the youth member on the Commission by November

**d. Homelessness**

No report.

**e. Outreach and Advocacy**

The Commission will continue its outreach and advocacy as in the past including accepting complaints of discrimination. The Commission is continuing their work with the UMI and has connected with some resources to help them acquire grants.

**f. HRC Awards and Commendations –**

Barona will sponsor this year's event. The Awards committee will meet soon to discuss this year's awards.

**2. Approve establishment of the Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez Diversity in Media Award**

This issue was not discussed as there was not a quorum.

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

**Chair's Report**

No report.

**Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Lynn attended the local premier of The Whistleblower, a biographical movie telling the story of a U.N. Peacekeeper that uncovers a human trafficking ring while serving in Bosnia. He said the movie was good and was a real eye opener to the subject of human trafficking. The premier featured a panel with staff from the Sheriff and District Attorney's office discussing human trafficking in San Diego. San Diego ranks eighth in the nation for human trafficking incidents. Gangs are joining forces to recruit Junior High and High School age girls at schools, on the street and in the malls

into prostitution. Human trafficking has become more profitable to gangs than drugs. On any given day up to 12,000 girls and women are being trafficked in the San Diego area. Commissioner Lynn would like to see the law enforcement agencies of San Diego unite to educate the public on human trafficking and its dangers. He recommended all see The Whistle blower to learn more about human trafficking.

Commissioner Lynn attended an Equality Alliance event, What is an American?, a presentation on immigration and the difficulties of immigration reform. He felt it was a very worthwhile event and educated on some of the social injustices experienced by immigrants.

Commissioner Oyos distributed information on AIDS Walk coming up on September 25. She encouraged all to support and participates in this great event.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Update on Student Visa Program**

Executive Director Scarborough received a letter from Sally Cox who approached the Commission two years ago with concerns regarding the student visa program and the exploitation of the students. Ms. Cox reported the advocacy instigated changes to the rules in place to give further protection to foreign students. She thanked the Commission for their support.

Executive Director Scarborough introduced Gagandeep Kaur and Monica Bauer, two visitors for the evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.