

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Balboa Park Club, San Diego

MEETING MINUTES: Meeting Number 234

WELCOME

1. Roll Call
 - a. Present: B. Abrams, J. Abrams, Alcock, Harrison, Shim, Henry, Lynn, Oyos,
 - b. Excused: Mitrovich, Dillon, Lee
 - c. Absent: Murray-Ramirez, Molina de Pick
 - d. Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Rimah Khouri, Labor Relations Officer
2. D/A Approve Minutes of August 17, 2011 Commission Meeting
 - a. Minutes were tabled until quorum could be established
3. Non-Agenda Public Comment
 - a. None

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

CalFresh (Food Stamp) Program Update - Assessing changes made and actions still requiring community attention.

- **Jennifer Tracy, Director of Food Security, San Diego Hunger Coalition**
 - Organization helps and assists with determining eligibility and application for program and reports systemic problems to the County. Partners with providers and working on public perception of aid program, customer services issues, access center wait times, high error rate, low participation rate (40%, still lowest for urban area). Suggests advocacy for County to opt in to new AB69 that links Social Security recipient information to assist with establishing program eligibility. Bill is pending Governor's signature.
- **Joni Halpern, Executive Director, Supportive Parents Information Network**
 - Is a volunteer agency that works with the very low-income families getting through barrier of not having enough food to eat and get on the road self-sufficiency. Stated that task-based assignment system is very problematic based on survey results. The access line set up removes human being from a human service and no human for being responsible for the outcome. Work group review program did not include staffers, came up with 69 recommendations.
- **Jill Esbshade, Associate Professor, SDSU & Center on Policy Initiatives**
 - From a worker perspective, there is an increase in workload and decrease in accountability with the BPR changes. Staffers are limited on time in access center to spend with customers.

6:15PM Commissioner Harris arrived

6:36PM Commissioner Shim arrived, quorum established

- *Motion by Commissioner Lynn, Second by Commissioner J. Abrams: Write letter to County Board of Supervisors to insist on on-going and immediate attention to reported problems. Motion passed.*
- *Motion by Commissioner Alcock, Second by Commissioner Oyos: Write a letter to City Council and the Mayor to request support of AB69. Motion passed.*
- *Motion by J. Abrams, Second by Commissioner Henry to approve the minutes. Motion passed.*

ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

1. Updates - Commission's 2011 Priority Issues

- a. Hate Motivated Behavior – Commissioner Harrison: Partnering with SD Hate Crimes Coalition, CAIR, and Islamic Center of San Diego to present Hate Crimes Forum for San Diego Muslim Community, Friday, October 14, 2011, 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.
 - Mock trial and getting students information on hate crime
 - Will focus on hate crimes next month, please send program suggestions
 - Urban League is looking for panel members for 10/27 Diversity Day
- b. Immigrant Rights and Reform – Commissioner Lynn
 - Meeting was held on the previous Monday, addressing Police checkpoint issues
- c. Educational Disparities – Commissioner J. Abrams
 - Working on having high school students as observer status board members
- d. Homelessness – Commissioner Shim
- e. Outreach and Advocacy – Chair Abrams
 - HRC Awards and Commendations – Vice Chair Henry
 - i. Receiving \$2,000 donation from Barona
 - ii. Packets soliciting nominations are being distributed

6:45PM Chair B. Abrams and Commissioner J. Abrams left

2. Approve establishment of the Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez Diversity in Media Award – trailed due to lack of quorum

INFORMATION AGENDA

Chair's Report – No report given.

6:40 p.m. Commissioners' Reports

1. San Diego Interfaith 9/11 Memorial and Concert – Commissioner Lynn
 - a. Was very well done - HRC should co-sponsor more community-wide events for the goodwill it engenders

7:00 p.m. Executive Director's Report

1. Briefing by Trial Attorney from US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices
 - a. Will obtain power point presentation for distribution
2. HRC Co-sponsoring event celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - a. Went to all managers citywide, Council Members, and Mayor's Committee

ADJOURNED at 7:18PM