

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012**

Chair Abrams called the 240th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:40 PM

- **WELCOME**

Public Comment:

There was no public comment

- **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

**Proposal to Name City Street in Honor of Harvey Milk
Dwayne Crenshaw, Executive Director, San Diego LGBT Pride
Nicole Murray Ramirez, Chair Emeritus**

Mr. Crenshaw and Mr. Murray Ramirez approached the Commission to ask for their support in renaming Blaine Avenue to honor Harvey Milk. Blaine Avenue is a small, two-block street that is in the heart of Hillcrest and leads to the entrance of the LGBT Center. Gay political activist Harvey Milk spent part of his time in the Navy stationed in San Diego. The home owners on Blain Avenue have all been notified of the considered change and the committee has received 17 letters or support and no opposition. The proposal has been approved by the Uptown Planners and the City's Planning Commission. The item will go before Council for final approval on May 8.

**Justice for Janitors Campaign
Rabbi Laurie Coskey, Sandra Diaz, Maria Lama**

The Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice of San Diego County is working with SEIU-United Service Workers West on Justice for Janitors. The Justice for Janitors movement works to help poverty-wage workers achieve a better life. SEIU's contract, which represents 1,800 janitorial workers in San Diego County, will expire on May 31, 2012. Current average wages for janitors is \$10.30 in Downtown San Diego, \$9.30 in UTC, La Jolla, Del Mar and Torrey Pines and \$8.45 in other suburban markets. After a two year wait the majority of the janitors have access to employer-paid single health insurance and janitors downtown receive full-family benefits. Most janitors who clean commercial buildings are employed by a third-party janitorial contractor. It is a very competitive industry that provides little in the way of salary, benefits or job security. SEIU's goal with a new contract is no added health benefit costs, reduced waiting period for benefits, full-family health insurance for janitors in the suburbs, reduced waiting period to receive industry standard wages and benefits and a modest wage gain to meet the rising cost of living. The economy is turning around and the coalition would like the companies that use the janitorial services to share some their profits with those that work for them. The speakers encouraged the Commission to write letters to the commercial property owners and business owners that use the janitors' service showing the Commission's support of living wages and access to health insurance.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Mary Alcock, Monica Bauer Federman, Tiffany Harrison, Shonee Henry, Gagandeep Kaur, Mitz Lee, Lorena Slomanson, Joel Trambley
Excused: Joyce Singer Abrams, Mark Dillon, George Mitrovich, Patricia Washington
Absent: Gracia Molina de Pick

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

- PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Justice for Janitors Campaign

Commissioner Lee made a motion that the Commission draft a letter to a list of businesses provided by the Justice for Janitors Campaign expressing their support for the cause and encouraging responsible and fair corporate behavior. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slomanson. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Alcock abstaining. Rabbi Coskey said she would provide some sample letters and a suggested mailing list to the Commission.

Proposal to Name City Street in Honor of Harvey Milk

There was a motion from Commissioner Trambley to write a letter to the Mayor and City Council to express the Human Relations Commission's support of renaming Blaine Street in honor of Harvey Milk. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry and passed unanimously. Commissioner Trambley will work with Executive Director Scarborough to draft the letter.

- ACTION AGENDA

New Business

1. Commission's response to murder of Shaima Alawadi.

The Commissioners discussed the murder of Shaima Alawadi. Although it was originally reported as a potential hate crime no factual evidence has come out to show what really happened. They felt this was an case study to be used in preparing for the future. There was discussion on how to reach out to the community and educate on may fronts; hate crimes, domestic violence, and honor killings. There was also discussion of developing template letters that could be sent out to victims of similar events in the future.

Old Business

Executive Director Scarborough distributed a list with the 2012 Priority Committees, the groups they plan to partner with and planned actions.

1. Update HRC 2012 Priority Committees and Work Plan

a. Hate Motivated Behavior

Commissioner Gagandeep Kaur, Committee Chair, Commissioners Bauer and Harrison

b. Education

Commissioner Mitz Lee, Committee Chair, Commissioner Abrams and Harrison
The Education Priority Committee would like to invite panelists to the August meeting to present.

c. Immigration Rights

Vice Chair Mark Dillon, Committee Chair, Commissioners Molina de Pick and Trambley

d. Access Issues

Commissioner Lorena Slomanson, Committee Chair, Commissioners Abrams and Alcock

e. Special Projects

Commissioner Mary Alcock

f. Outreach and Advocacy

Chair Bruce Abrams, Committee Chair, Commissioners Dillon, and Henry

g. Media and Communications

Commissioner Joel Trambley, Committee Chair, Commissioners Bauer, Harrison, Molina de Pick and Slomanson.

h. Discrimination Complaints

HRC Staff/Legal Intern

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

CHAIRS REPORT

1. Meeting with Director Atsuko Ikedo, Director for Human Rights and Affairs and Gender Equality Promotion, City of Yokohama.

Chair Abrams reported that the meeting with Director Ikedo was educational and fascinating. Yokohama is one of the few Japanese Cities to have a female Mayor. They discussed gender roles in Japan compared to the United States and how roles are changing.

Commissioners' Report:

There were no reports

Executive Director's Report:

1. Thomas Jefferson School of Law Diversity Week, Panel on American Muslim Community Hate Crimes, March 26

The panel was very timely and very educational. The event was planned before the murder of Shaima Alawadi but the crime became a central topic and helped in the explanation of hate crimes. The Commission hopes to participate in similar panels to help to educate different communities.

2. Community Day, Peace Week at Hoover High School, March 28

Executive Director Scarborough reported that the Peace Week event at Hoover High School was a wonderful success this year. The speakers found attentive students who were very ready to learn. The school's vice principal asked her to express the school's appreciation of the support from the Commission.

3. First Annual Community Conference on Restoring Civility to Civic Dialogue, April 9

The Restoring Civility to Civic Dialogue event was a great educational experience with a very interesting panel. The Commission has volunteered to be an active participant in future events and actions.

4. Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast, May 25

Please contact Executive Director Scarborough to secure tickets for this event.

5. Diversity Day, June 10

The Commission will be a sponsor for this event at the Children's Museum.

6. Human Rights Campaign Gala, August 18

Please contact Commissioner Trambley for tickets for this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.