



**OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** : January 25, 2010

**TO** : Council President Ben Hueso & Honorable Members of the  
San Diego City Council

**FROM** : Mayor Jerry Sanders

**SUBJECT** : Appointment to the Human Relations Commission

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It is my pleasure to appoint George Mitrovich to the Human Relations Commission, subject to your confirmation.

George Mitrovich has a long history and distinguished record of civic leadership and service in San Diego. His exemplary career and history includes advocacy on behalf of the public's interest, race relations, and coalition building. Mr. Mitrovich is the President of The City Club of San Diego, a non-partisan public forum founded by Mr. Mitrovich in 1975 that features nationally prominent speakers on a broad and diverse range of issues and topics affecting the San Diego region, California, and the nation. In 1985, Mr. Mitrovich founded The Denver Forum. Both The City Club and The Denver Forum are rated among America's top 10 public forums. In addition, Mr. Mitrovich chairs The Great Fenway Park Writers Series sponsored by the Boston Red Sox. Collectively, the three forums have presented more than 1,500 programs in the public's interest.

Mr. Mitrovich's civic leadership and dedication to the public's interest has positively impacted the San Diego region. He served as the Chair of the Committee on Charter Reform which led the effort to change San Diego's government from City Manager to the Strong Mayor form of government. In addition, Mr. Mitrovich chaired The Committee of 2000, a citizens group that successfully supported the building of Petco Park, and an effort that Mr. Mitrovich contributed more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service.

Mr. Mitrovich is also a tireless advocate for race relations, underserved populations, and multi-cultural communities. With the Reverend George Walker Smith, he co-founded the San Diego Coalition for Equality which was established in response to the racial unrest in Southern California upon the Rodney King trial verdict and riots in 1992. The Coalition for Equality was responsible for proposing the National Day of Unity which was proposed in response to President Clinton's speech on race relations in America.

Mr. Mitrovich's many years of service and contributions to the San Diego community includes dynamic leadership and participation with various boards and committees including the California Historical Society Board of Directors, Citizens for Community Values, Crime Victims Fund, National Conference for Community and Justice, San Diego County Charter Review Committee, San Diego County Fiscal & Justice Committee, and two terms as a member of the San Diego Stadium Authority.

Due to Mr. Mitrovich's outstanding civic, conflict resolution, and humanitarian efforts and service at the local, state, and national levels, he is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. He was named Man of the Year by Pacific Bell, Outstanding San Diegan by the San Diego Mediation Center, Peacemaker of the Year by the National Center for Conflict Resolution, and received the Community Involvement Award from the NAACP. In addition, Mr. Mitrovich was honored at the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for "His Ministry and Labor to Overcome Racism and to Build a Multi-Cultural Church."

Mr. Mitrovich attended Pasadena College in Pasadena, California, and the Clairemont School of Theology in Clairemont, California. In May 2007, he was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Point Loma Nazarene University.

Mr. Mitrovich's life of service, efforts to build consensus, and experience in race relations and advocating on behalf of underrepresented groups and populations will be invaluable additions to the Human Relations Commission. Mr. Mitrovich will replace Thomas Felkner, who has resigned, for a term expiring July 22, 2010. Mr. Mitrovich resides in Kensington.

I ask that you confirm this appointment and join me in thanking Mr. Mitrovich for his willingness to provide his insight and expertise to serve the City of San Diego in this capacity.



JERRY SANDERS  
Mayor

JS:lg

cc: City Attorney Jan Goldsmith  
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland