

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010**

Commissioners Present: Mary Alcock, Teresa Oyos, Tiffany Harrison, Susan Hawk, Bruce Abrams, Gary Lynn, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Roberto Shim

Excused: Joyce Abrams, Mark Dillon, Shonee Henry, Carolina Alcoser Ramos

Absent: Mitz Lee, Gracia Molina de Pick

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director (ED); Lori Thacker, Deputy City Attorney

Chair Ramirez called the 214th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll Call: 8 Commissioners were present, 4 excused, and 2 absent.

Approval of Minutes – The November 18, 2009, December 16, 2009, and December 18, 2009 minutes were approved.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – Rabbi Laurie Coskey provided comment on her knowledge of the events leading up to the boycott of the MLK Breakfast. She received a communication from Carlos Cota, manager of IATSE, representing the stagehands for Golden Hall, with information about the collective bargaining agreement between the stagehands and Golden Hall. Although she doesn't know the exact history of that situation, when their partners choose not to participate in an event, they will support and stand by their partners and therefore stood by the boycott. Rabbi Coskey was not part of the committee or official organizing group, but what she has gathered is that whoever was on the committee at some point knew about the labor dispute. It seems that it is not in the spirit of the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. to hold an event where there is a labor dispute going on. Rabbi Coskey also suggested that the HRC work to help bridge the 2 different MLK breakfasts, which she acknowledged would be a long and difficult process.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Debrief HRC Awards and Commendations Event – ED Scarborough reported that the Awards ceremony turned out to be a fabulous event, and if you have any suggestions for next year, let her know. Chair Ramirez agreed it was a good event and thanked ED Scarborough for putting it all together. Commissioner

Lynn reported that it was a great event, but suggested that there be a different venue for recognition of the Chair because the time spent on the Chair's departure appeared to overshadow the other awards. Commissioner Oyos thought the event was well attended and there were a good number of awardees. Commissioner B. Abrams remarked that the honorees were very diverse.

SDSU Entrance Policy – Will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Letter to County of San Diego regarding a County HRC - As directed in a previous meeting, ED Scarborough will draft a letter encouraging the County to reinstate a County HRC. A draft will be provided to the Commissioners for review and comment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Home Depot Video Clip – Commissioner Lynn brought to the Commission's attention a video clip being distributed that he found offensive. The video, meant to be comic, showed day laborers being purchased and returned at Home Depot. [Commissioners viewed video]. Chair Ramirez suggested this be looked into further.

Co-Sponsoring ADL Cyber-bullying Conference – Will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

2010 Harvey Milk Breakfast – ED Scarborough reported that if we want to get a table, we should register soon. The breakfast will be held on May 21.

Strategic Planning Retreat Details – Commissioner B. Abrams reported that the retreat will be held on February 6, 2010, from 9:00-2:00, in his offices, located at 1901 1st Avenue, in the 2nd floor conference room.

V. HRC OFFICER ELECTIONS

Commissioner Hawk presented the slate of candidates for Chair and Vice Chair.

Nominations for Chair – Commissioner Bruce Abrams.

Nominations for Vice Chair – Commissioner Hawk.

There were no nominations from the floor. Votes were taken:

Bruce Abrams was elected Chair and Susan Hawk was elected Vice Chair.

VI. PRESENTATION: THE BROWN ACT, LORI THACKER, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY – DCA Thacker presented to the Commissioners an overview of the history, purpose, and requirements of Brown Act.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT – None.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – ED Scarborough reported that soon she will be in charge of 2 commissions. She is in the training process for the other board (the Citizen’s Review Board on Police Practices) right now.

ED Scarborough reported that the presentation of the Ashley L. Walker Social Justice Award to Ashley Grisham at the MLK All People’s Breakfast went well. It was very appreciated by the Grisham family and received good news coverage in the paper and on television.

Chair Ramirez asked when Dr. Shirley Weber, Chair of the Equal Opportunity Commission, will come to speak about the City’s minority contracting issue. Commissioner Abrams stated that Councilman Young has been working on the issue. ED Scarborough reported we may be able to get Dr. Weber as well as someone from the tribal council to speak at the February meeting.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Hate and Violence Prevention** – None.
- B. Immigration** – ED Scarborough reported that the SDIRC feels there is a window of opportunity between now and April to make significant progress on the legislation introduced by Rep. Gutierrez from Illinois. On January 26 a local press conference will be held, the message is “take hate out of the debate” and increase our understanding of the contributions immigrants make to our state.
- C. Educational Disparities** – None.
- D. Criminal Justice System Disparities Committee** – None.
- E. Legislative Update** – None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by Lori Thacker, Deputy City Attorney
Approved by Danell Scarborough, Executive Director