

City of San Diego
Human Relations Commission
Meeting #221 August 18, 2010
MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Commissioners Present: Chair B. Abrams, Dillon, Harrison, Henry, J. Abrams, Lynn (arrived 5:55pm), Mitrovich, Molina de Pick (arrived 6:20pm), Oyos, Shim
- Commissioners Excused: Alcock, Murray-Ramirez
- Commissioners Absent: Ramos
- Staff Present: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director and Rimah Khouri, Labor Relations Officer

2. Approval of the Minutes from July 17, 2010 Meeting

- Motioned by Commissioner Dillon
- Second by Commissioner J. Abrams
- Passed by all members present

3. Presentations

a. San Diego Unified School District Status Report: 2003-2009

- i. Presenter(s): Scott Himmelstein, Director, Center for Education Policy and Law, University of San Diego

1. In a study that researched from 2003 through 2009, the significant findings were as follows:
 - a. 2/3 of the students are considered low income, ESL, and/or minority
 - b. 80% of the study body during this time are not reading or computing proficiently at their grade level
 - c. Enrollment went down approximately 11% or 115,000 students from a high of 132,000
 - i. Private school enrollment also went down by 2% however, charter school enrollments went up 60%
 - ii. Some of the students could have also moved to other areas
 - d. The district received an increase of 33% in revenue which includes a 15% inflation rate during this time period
2. What is defined as needed to improve these figures is the following:
 - a. More assistance for ESL students due to the fact that SDUSD has 29% higher rate of ESL students than the state average
 - b. Increase professional development for teachers
 - c. Focus on retaining and recruiting good principals and leadership
 - d. Stop dysfunction of the Board of Supervisors
 - i. There is a long history of the Board not getting along

ii. Board has gone through 4 Superintendents in 5 years

1. Governance is compromised as a result and level of instability is concerning to teachers

3. What is currently being done includes researching how other successful school districts govern themselves, board member figures (SDUSD has had 5 members since being established in 1931 and never changed), and an action plan is planned to be released in less than one year. More information is available at www.sd4greatschools.org

b. Strengthening Regulations on Employment for People with Disabilities

i. Presenter: Susan Madison, City of San Diego Disability Services Coordinator

ii. The Mayor's Committee on Disabilities consists of 9 members and meets to discuss local impacts of ADA and disability issues

iii. The Department of Labor is seeking comment on regulations on hiring people with disabilities

iv. October 12th is National Disability Employment Awareness Day that was put in place by Congress and all are invited after Mayor dedication to a event following

1. Motion to write letter of support of the US Department of Labor to seek input to strengthen employment of those with disabilities

➤ Motioned by Commissioner J. Abrams

➤ Second by Commissioner Oyos

➤ Motioned pass by all members present

4. Business

a. Old Business

i. Update on progress regarding re-establishing a County HRC- Models are being reviewed and a follow up meeting has been set with the County DA and Sheriff

ii. Update on County Food Stamp Program- Supervisor Pam Slater-Price responded to the HRC's letter with information about the County initiating a working group

iii. Update on City's Equal Benefit Ordinance- Ordinance was heard by the Rules Committee and has been sent to full Council for introduction and passage of the ordinance

b. New Business

i. HRC Annual Awards and Commendations Process and Timeline

1. Various past award were described

2. Motion to change date of Annual Awards to December 8, 2010

➤ Motioned by Commissioner Molina de Pick

➤ Second by Commissioner Oyos

➤ Motioned passed by all members present

5. Chair's Report

a. Tribes in Transition motion to send letter to comment Dana Gluckstein acknowledging her work for the rights of indigenous people

- Motioned by Commissioner Mitrovich
- Second by Commissioner Henry
- Motioned passed by all members present

6. Executive Director's Report

- a. Growing amounts of anti-Muslim sentiment and incidents of harassment being seen across the country
- b. Suggest possibly supporting inter-faith community in responding to this. Commissioner Molina de Pick suggested the HRC attend the Annual ADC dinner in October to show support. Commissioner Dillon suggested taking a stance early on this issue. Commissioner Mitrovich and Dillon volunteered to draft a statement for the HRC.

7. Legislative Report

- a. Intern Rosie Frank provided an updated report on current legislative issues

8. Commissioners' Reports

9. Adjournment at 7:38pm