

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011**

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Joyce Singer Abrams, Mary Alcock, Mark Dillon, Tiffany Harrison, Shonee Henry, Mitz Lee, George Mitrovich, Teresa Oyos

Excused: Gary Lynn, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Carolina Alcoser Ramos

Absent: Gracia Molina de Pick, Roberto Shim

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Pam Holmberg, Labor Relations

Chair Abrams called the 226th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:40 PM

- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry to approve the November 17 and December 8 minutes.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lee.

The motion passed unanimously

- PRESENTATION

Casa Cornelia Law Center - The Executive Director of the Casa Cornelia Law Center, Carmen Chavez, provided the Commission with an overview of the services they provide. Casa Cornelia Law Center is a public interest law firm providing quality pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations. The Center has a primary commitment to the indigent within the immigrant community in Southern California. Casa Cornelia strives to educate others regarding the impact of immigration law and policy on society and the public good. They screen 350-400 people for asylum and will represent those that are legally qualified. They also assist the victims of domestic violence and work to educate those in the community to assist them. Casa Cornelia also provides representation for any unaccompanied child that is detained for immigration reasons. Casa Cornelia coordinates and assists volunteer legal professionals to help in their goals. In 2010 they had over 27,000 hours of volunteer time from attorneys, law clerks and paralegals.

Commission on Gang Prevision and Intervention - Lynne Sharp-Underwood, the Executive Director of the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention gave an update on the progress they have achieved in the community. The Commission collaborates with the community to discourage gang activities and offers support to the victims of gang violence. Since the formation of the Commission five years ago there has been a steady drop in gang activities and over 1,050 children have gone through diversion programs. In 1998 there were 21 gang related deaths in the City of San Diego. In 2010 that number dropped to 3 and there has not been a juvenile homicide in the last year and a half. It is only through the assistance from the Police Department, schools and community that changes can be made.

- **BUSINESS**

Old Business

- **Bullying issues with San Diego City Schools**

Executive Director Scarborough updated the Commission on activities as reported to her by LGBT Center Staff. The LGBT Center took the lead in lobbying the School Board to create a Safe School Task Force. Currently, the Task Force is studying best practices on both the local and state level focused on curriculum and disciplinary policies. The HRC can best assist with the educational component at the community level.

- **Debrief HRC Award**

Commissioner Henry reported that the awards ceremony was a great success. All went smoothly and Barona, who sponsored the event, was very pleased with the proceedings. She is hopeful they will sponsor this again this year. There was discussion about the timing of the ceremony and a suggestion that it be moved to November to avoid the holiday scheduling crunch. A motion was made by Commissioner Alcock to move the HRC awards ceremony to November 16. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oyos. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission may consider a permanent move to November if the timing proves to be beneficial.

New Business

- **Elections**

Commissioner Alcock reported Commissioner Abrams had been nominated for Chair and Commissioner Henry for Vice-Chair.

She called for nominations from the floor for Vice-Chair. There were none. Commissioner Lee made a motion that Commissioner Henry be nominated for Vice-Chair and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Oyos. A vote was taken by a show of hands and Commissioner Henry was unanimously voted to Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Alcock called for nominations from the floor for Chair. There were no nominations. Commissioner Lee made a motion that Commissioner Abrams be nominated for Chair and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Oyos. A vote was taken by a show of hands and Commissioner Abrams was unanimously voted to Chair.

- **New Design of Logo**

There was a suggestion that the HRC Logo be updated and modified. Some felt the old design didn't make the goals of the Commission clear. Commissioner Mitrovich said he knows a graphic designer that he believed would create a new design for free. He would approach him to see what he can come up with. Commissioner Mitrovich will head up a subcommittee including Commissioners Dillon, Oyos and Alcock to explore new designs and provide an update at the next meeting.

- **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Reappointed Commissioners

Commissioner Abrams congratulated Commissioners Mitrovich, Lee, Molina de Pick, Alcock, Dillon and Ramos for their reappointment to the Commission.

MLK All People's Breakfast and Walker Social Justice Award

The MLK All People's Breakfast was well attended by a very diverse crowd. The event went well and all seemed pleased with the award to Morris Casuto.

UCSD Response to HRC Letter of 11/3/10

The Commission received a letter from UCSD Chancellor regarding changes and outreach performed on campus. It was suggested that the students that previously presented to the Commission be invited back to give their perspective and to see what follow up they feel is needed.

Commission Strategic Planning Retreat

A sub-committee comprised of Commissioners Dillon, Harrison, Henry and Shim was formed to design the March 12 retreat. Commissioner Dillon has scheduled the services of the facilitator that led the retreat last year.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

City Heights Human Rights March and Festival

Executive Director Scarborough received a last minute invitation to have a booth at the festival. It was a wonderful event and she suggests participating again this year.

CAHRO Training Conference

Executive Director Scarborough reported some details of the CAHRO State-wide training conference on Monday, February 7, 2011 in Los Angeles. The City has agreed to pay for conference registration and transportation (train) for any Commissioners that can attend.

Partnering with ADL

The HRC has been invited to partner with the ADL on two upcoming events on Freedom Riders and Stonewall Community Uprising to coincide with the PBS series on the same subjects.

- **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

The report was skipped in consideration of time.

- **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Task Force Update

Commissioner Dillon will give an update on the SDIRC at a future meeting

San Diego Safe Communities Forums

Commissioner Harrison will give an update at a future meeting.

There was a motion from Commissioner Dillon to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Oyos. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.