

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011**

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Joyce Singer Abrams, Mary Alcock, Mark Dillon, Tiffany Harrison, Mitz Lee, George Mitrovich, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Teresa Oyos, Roberto Shim

Excused: Shonee Henry, Gary Lynn

Absent: Gracia Molina de Pick,

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

Chair Abrams called the 229th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:30 PM

- **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Murray Ramirez to approve the March 16 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abrams. The motion passed unanimously.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

- **PRESENTATION**

Acknowledgment of Carolina Alcoser Ramos –Chair Abrams and Executive Director Scarborough presented former Commissioner Carolina Alcoser Ramos with a pen set and name plate and thanked her for her service to the Commission.

Redistricting in San Diego – Vince Hall, Vice President of Communications, Planned Parenthood, presented an overview of the redistricting process. Mr. Hall served on previous Redistricting Commissions and shared his knowledge of the process. Redistricting can have powerful results since it can influence elections. The City has changed since the previous census conducted 10 years ago and redistricting can have a positive effect on voters' rights. The first priority will be equalizing the population of the districts. Each district should have approximately 144,624 citizens. The second priority is to follow the laws of the Federal Voting Rights Act, which makes it illegal to disenfranchise community groups of color. The City of San Diego also looks to the City Charter for guidance. Many community groups have interest in the redistricting as it could affect their voice in representation on the City Council. The interested groups include the Latino, African-American, Pacific Islander/Asian and LGBT communities. All of these communities have been working together to create districts that will work for all. Boundaries should be natural boundaries and there should be evidence from testimony of the community to support the boundaries. The Mayor and City

Council have no role in the process. The Redistricting Commission has started community meetings to collect testimony. The last meeting is scheduled for May 11. The redistricting process will be completed by August 15.

Commissioner Murray Ramirez suggested the Commission draft a letter to the Redistricting Commission urging diverse representation and that all communities be fairly represented in redistricting. Chair Abrams will head a sub-committee including commissioners Dillon, Mitrovich and Lee to form the letter. They will complete the letter and send it by May 2.

- **BUSINESS**

Old Business

Reports from Hoover High School Cesar Chavez Community Day

Commissioner Oyos said the event was worthwhile and she was impacted by the visit. It was interesting meeting the students and the other mentors. She hopes with more organization and detailed direction for the speakers it will be an even better event next year. The Commission directed that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Dean of Students, Norma Sandoval.

Discussion with artist on redesign of Commission logo and website

The Commission reviewed the proposed redesigns for the logo. Although they appreciated the work put into designing the logos there wasn't one that they felt completely represented the Commission. They will provide feedback to the designer with more specific ideas and descriptions of how it will be used to see if he helps the Commission in achieving their vision. The Commission directed that a letter of appreciation be sent to the artist, Jeff Brower.

New Business

Consider HRC as signatory on California Prosperity Pledge

Commissioner Dillon submitted the California Prosperity Pledge for consideration. The Pledge is a values statement from the California Immigrant Policy Center. The San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium is signing and asking ally organizations to show their support for the pledge. A motion was made by Commissioner Ramirez for the Commission to express their support. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oyos and the motion passed unanimously.

Action steps on Commission's 2011 Priority Issues

Executive Director Scarborough led the Commission in a discussion of actions on the four issues that were designated as 2011 priorities and how they wished to proceed. The sub-committees will meet to discuss the next steps and how they can team up with established organizations specializing in these issues. The sub-committee leaders, Commissioner Dillon for Immigrant Rights and Reform, Commissioner Harrison for Hate Motivated Behavior, Commissioner Mitrovich for Educational Disparities and Commissioner Shim for Homelessness, will communicate with their members, either by meeting or email, to discuss priorities and future plans. It was suggested that in the future that at least one HRC meeting be dedicated to each of these subjects. Speakers from different organizations already addressing these problems will be invited to speak and

educate the Commission on their mission. It was also suggested that the meetings be televised on the City's station so the public can be educated. Ms. Scarborough will investigate.

- **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Passage of Anti-Bullying Policy at San Diego City Schools Chair Abrams was happy to report that the Anti-Bullying Policy was passed by the school board unanimously. It was suggested that the Commission track the progress and make sure that there is follow through on the policy.

Response from Chief of Police

The Chief sent a thank you note for the letter of support for the Police Department and their efforts to stay in touch with community concerns.

Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast

Plans for the breakfast are going well. The HRCs table is sold out.

KPBS Local Heroes

It was recently announced that Commissioner Ramirez and LGBT Center Executive Director Delores Jacobs were selected as the LGBT Local Heroes.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Freedom Riders events

Executive Director Scarborough reported that the reception was very successful and encourages all to view the upcoming (May 16) PBS documentary on Freedom Riders.

Passage of A-G Curriculum at San Diego Schools

The School Board has changed the requirement for graduation starting in 2017.

Executive Director Scarborough suggested they follow up to see what is being done to assist students that will struggle to meet these new requirements, especially in light of budget restraints.

Use of Title by Appointee to Election-Related Activity

Ms. Scarborough reminded that individual Commissioners were not authorized to speak for the Human Relations Commission but they could use their title as a Commissioner in identifying themselves.

- **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Linda Vista Community Fair – Commissioner Shim

Commissioner Shim reported the fair had a good turn out and was a wonderful event.

SDSU's 4th Annual Diversity Conference – An Integrated Approach – April 29-May 1 – Commissioner Harrison

Commissioner Harrison invited all to participate and passed out information on the conference and the schedule of events.

Education Reform Symposium, June 25 Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee distributed flyers with information on the upcoming symposium and encouraged all to participate.

ADL Diversity Day at the Children's Museum "Dig our Differences", June 26 –

Commissioner Dillon Commissioner Dillon will email information on this event to all.

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