

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011**

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Joyce Singer Abrams, Mary Alcock, Gracia Molina de Pick, Mark Dillon, Shonee Henry, Mitz Lee, Gary Lynn, George Mitrovich, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Teresa Oyos, Roberto Shim

Excused: Tiffany Harrison

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

Chair Abrams called the 231th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:30 PM

- WELCOME

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Lynn to approve the May 18, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alcock. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION –Homelessness in San Diego

Brian Maienschein, Commissioner

Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Mr. Maienschein provided the Commission with an overview of Plan to End Chronic Homelessness' program and the goals of the organization. They work with the communities of San Diego County with a goal to end chronic homelessness. Since they started in 2006 they have provided homes for 177 individuals that were previously homeless. They are very interested in the economics of chronic homelessness. They have worked with over 20 organizations in San Diego (law enforcement agencies, hospitals, mental health facilities, ambulance companies) to identify costs for services and have identified the top 29 homeless individuals for support costs. Those 29 individuals cost \$5.2 million in services for one year. An individual could be housed for approximately \$50,000 - \$75,000 a year and have a better quality of life. They work to reach out to those individuals and connect them with the services throughout San Diego that will help to enhance their quality of life and be much more economical for society.

Peter Callstrom

Regional Task Force on the Homeless

Mr. Callstrom provided a presentation on the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) and the 2011 Point in Time Count (PITC). The RTFH is funded by both public and private funds and focuses on addressing homelessness in Sa Diego County. They provide information, insights and analysis of homelessness in San Diego. The RTFH teams with community partners throughout San Diego to conduct the PITC January or

February annually. This important study is a physical count and interviews with homeless individuals. Over 20% of the nation's homeless population reside in California. The 2011 PITC found 9,020 homeless in San Diego County, 4,981 unsheltered and 4039 sheltered. Mr. Callstrom shared information that was gathered, such as gender, race and ethnicity, age, education, mental health diagnosis, alcohol and drug use, source of income (if any), reasons for homelessness and services accessed. The PITC provides a great amount of information and helps show what kinds of services are needed or can assist the best.

Richard Schnell, Sergeant

San Diego Police Department Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

Sergeant Schnell has worked on HOT for over 10 years. There are four officers on the team that cover the whole City. Their goal is to pair individuals with services that can help to get them off the street and keep them out of the criminal system. They place approximately 450 individuals a year. The City of San Diego is the only agency to have HOT in San Diego County so they offers support to other law enforcement agencies throughout the County. They feel the item needed the most in San Diego is emergency housing. There are people living and sleeping in areas where it is illegal to do so. The Police can only ask them to move on or issue tickets. They would like the option to refer people to emergency housing.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

Old Business

1. Updates - Commission's 2011 Priority Issues and Work Plan

a. Hate Motivated Behavior

The sub-committee is working to determine a date for a community forum. They are partnering with the San Diego Hate Crime Commission for a mock trial. The trial would be conducted by students, who would work over the summer to prepare for a trial this fall.

b. Immigrant Rights and Reform

The sub-committee is meeting with SDIRC to discuss upcoming legislation and how to expand their contacts and relationships.

c. Educational Disparities

The Educational Disparities sub-committee will request two student representatives to participate, as non-voting members, on the Commission. They will initiate a letter to the school board with their request.

d. Homelessness

The Homelessness sub-committee was very pleased with the information shared at today's meeting. Their next goal is to narrow down the best way for the HRC to help. They would also like to have a speaker from Monarch School at a future meeting.

e. Outreach and Advocacy

The Commission will continue its outreach and advocacy as in the past.

New Business

Heather Catron, as law student at USD, will be serving the Commission as a legal intern. She provided a brief overview of discrimination laws. She will be working to help

provide guidance to individuals who file complaints with the Commission to the entity that can best help them resolve their complaint.

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

- **Chair's Report**

1. Conversation with NCRC – mediation and training opportunities

Chair Abrams and Executive Director Scarborough meet with the Director of the NCRC. They have agreed to provide mediation services for the Commission at no charge. Training opportunities will also be made available to the Commissioners.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner J. Abrams attended the ADL Cyber bullying Conference. It was well attended, with each school sending a team that included administrators, teachers and parents. The panelist provided good, honest information.

Commissioner Lee distributed a flyer for the Parent Empowerment Summit. All are invited to attend.

The Commissioners discussed the annual recognition events. Commissioner Henry announced that the awards night will be November 16 and once again will be sponsored by Barona. The group discussed getting started on the award process earlier this year. Commissioner Murray Ramirez suggested that in honor of the 30th anniversary of AIDS that all of the honorees be those that have helped in the fight with AIDS. There was discussion of this idea and other options. It was decided the awards sub-committee would meet and come up with a recommendation.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Monthly Hate Crimes Report from SDPD

Executive Director Scarborough distributed the latest report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.