

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013**

Chair Abrams called the 249TH meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:37 PM

- **WELCOME**

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Mary Alcock, Monica Bauer Federman, Gagandeep Kaur, Mitz Lee, Lorena Slomanson, Susan Thomson Tschirn, Joel Trambley, Patricia Washington

Not Present: Mark Dillon, Shonee Henry, George Mitrovich, Gracia Molina de Pick, Joyce Singer Abrams

Leave of Absence: Tiffany Harrison

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Darrin Schwabe, Senior Manager; Karen Li, Deputy City Attorney

Bronwyn Ingram, First Lady of San Diego, introduced Team First Lady. A volunteer group created to help those in need. Everyone is encouraged to be involved, to be civically active. There will be 5K runs, fundraisers, neighborhood cleanups, and many more volunteer opportunities. The website at teamfirstladysd.com has ways to be involved. Everyone is welcome and appreciated.

Bronwyn Ingram, First Lady of San Diego, presented a proclamation from the City of San Diego, declaring January 16th, 2013, to be Bruce Abrams Day.

Linda Perine, Director of Community Outreach for Mayor Filner, introduced herself and invited the Commission to assist her with outreach, and making the community more aware.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Trambley to approve the December 12, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

There was no non-agenda public comment.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Resident-Driven Strategic Actions and Solutions

44th Street Residents and Dana Brown

Ms. Brown and residents spoke about the transformation of the 44th street block. Along with the help of Councilmember Marti Emerald, Police Chief Lansdowne, and Police Captain Jarvis, the residents have been able to bring everyone together to talk in the neighborhood and develop information banks of different resources, and make the neighborhood safer. To

continue and improve, the group said they need to have Trauma Informed Schools. The group would like the San Diego School District to help teachers become Trauma Informed. The group is asking the Commission to speak with representatives of the San Diego Board of Education, and the County Office of Education to help implement this training.

Commissioner Lee suggested the group make a presentation at the public Board of Trustees meeting, and to present them with the recommendation to implement this type of policy district wide. The Commission will continue to discuss with the residents how it might assist in their efforts.

Taxpayers for Responsible Land Use re: Hillel Project

Julie Hamilton, Attorney at Law

Ms. Hamilton expressed her surprise to see the 2012 letter from the Human Relations Commission to the Mayor and City Council regarding the Hillel Project, and that it seems to infer bias. Ms. Hamilton mentioned she did not see the minutes from the October HRC meeting on the website. Ms. Hamilton said she sees this as a land use issue, including traffic, noise, parking, and community character, and not religion. A binder was provided to each Commissioner that included every presentation this group has made since Ms. Hamilton was retained in 2010. Ms. Hamilton read a letter from a resident in the neighborhood, and four neighbors spoke stating that their opposition to the Hillel Center is not bias, and is about preserving single family status in the neighborhood and that it is a land use issue. Further, it was mentioned that San Diego City zoning permits do not allow university facilities in single family resident areas, and that there are five (5) dozen student religious groups in the area and each will have equal claim to set up their own student center in the neighborhood if Hillel is allowed to.

Public Comment on Agenda Item

Mr. Robert Lapidus, Past President Hillel of San Diego, said he was equally sensitive and concerned about the group being accused of anti-Semitism, and that is not the position of Hillel. The issue is fairness and bias in the local community planning process.

Dare to Dream Teen Social Justice Coalition

Jessica Nare, Jewish Family Services of San Diego

Ms. Nare, Jewish Family Services Supervisor of Youth Leadership Program, spoke about the Teen Social Justice Coalition. The Coalition brings together diverse teens from across San Diego County to learn about social justice issues while giving back to the community in a meaningful way. Ms. Nare explained their goals for this year are to engage forty (40) high school students in a four (4) session program, expose the participants to diversity in the San Diego area, raise awareness about contemporary social justice issues, explore the legacy of civil rights movement, provide cultural competency training, and give back to the community in meaningful ways. Ms. Nare thought this would be a good link with the Commission, and invited Commissioners to speak, and asked for potential service projects that teens could be involved in.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

New Business

1. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair for 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee for Commissioner Alcock to conduct the elections seeing that Vice Chair Dillon was not present. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Washington. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Alcock to reduce the amount of nomination period from sixty (60) days to thirty (30) days. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slomanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Nominees: Mark Dillon

A motion was made by Commissioner Alcock to select Mark Dillon as the Chair of the Commission for 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The motion passed with simple majority. Mark Dillon was elected Chair of the Commission for 2013.

Vice Chair Nominees: Joel Trambley, Pat Washington

A motion was made by Commissioner Alcock to select Joel Trambley, or Pat Washington as the Vice Chair of the Commission for 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomson. The motion passed with simple majority with the selection of Joel Trambley. Joel Trambley was elected Vice Chair of the Commission for 2013.

2. Logistics for 2013 HRC Priorities Planning Session

Session will be on Sunday, February 10th. Lila Gracey was selected as the Facilitator. An informal vote was taken and 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. was selected for the meeting time.

INFORMATION AGENDA

Chair's Report

1. Thank you

Chair Bruce Abrams thanked the Commissioners for their support and service during his tenure as Chair and offered a token of thanks (candle) as a metaphor for "the brilliance you are, and the light you bring, and to show together as a group we can shine."

Commissioners' Report:

Executive Director's Report:

1. Appreciation for the work of Chair Abrams

Chair Abrams has delivered on his desire to create an active and involved commission, he has shown generosity of spirit and empathy for all. He has done a real service for this Commission, and for the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.