



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, October 16, 2013
TIME: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Santa Fe Room, Balboa Park Club
MEETING: Number 256

Commissioners Present:

Chair Mark Dillon
Commissioner Mary Alcock
Commissioner Bruce Abrams
Commissioner Joyce Abrams
Commissioner Monica Bauer
Commissioner Tiffany Harrison
Commissioner Gagandeep Kaur
Commissioner Lorena Slomanson
Commissioner Susan Thomson Tschirn
Vice Chair Joel Trambley

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioner Shonee Henry
Commissioner Mitz Lee
Commissioner Gracia Molina de Pick
Commissioner Pat Washington

Student Representative Present:

Lillian Shallow

Staff Present:

Danell Scarborough, Executive Director, HRC
Darrin Schwabe, Senior Manager, HRC
Karen Li, Deputy City Attorney

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- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. MINUTES APPROVAL** – HRC Minutes of September 18, 2013 were approved.
- III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**
- IV. ACTION AGENDA**
- **New Business**
 1. **Update from Issue Committees**
 - a. **Access Committee** –
Commissioner Alcock: Attended County Health and Human Services Social Services Advisory Board meeting; Feeding America is accepting donations, \$1 will provide 6 meals, \$11 will provide 66 meals, and \$22 will provide 132 meals.
 - b. **Civility Committee** –
Commissioner Thomson Tschirn: Held another human trafficking meeting and received direction to move forward with changes to poster. Designed notification letters and FAQ sheet to be sent to businesses. DA’s Office having survivors review poster for feedback. Attended Project Concern International (PCI) and Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC) meeting on Human Trafficking. January is Human Trafficking month.

c. Education Committee –

Danell Scarborough, Executive Director: The Collaboration Agreement with San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) will be on the board docket on October 22nd; Chair Dillon and I will speak to ASB presidents of SDUSD; Commissioner Joyce Abrams suggested Student Representative Shallow speak at the School Board meeting.

d. Immigration Committee –

Commissioner Slomanson: Attended San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium meeting; Participated in Call for Immigration Reform March along with Commissioner Bauer and Executive Director Scarborough; New legislation passed, such as the law that fines businesses who retaliate against employees for their immigration status, and also one that allows undocumented immigrants who pass the Bar exam to practice in the State; Bill passed that regulates immigration consulting and requires registration with Federal Immigration Board.

2. Awards Working Group

Commissioner Kaur: Received \$2500 sponsorship from Viejas. Ceremony will be November 20th, 5:30 to 7:30. The theme is Simunye, We Are One. We will review nominees today, discuss them and Danell will send out an email for all to vote.

Chairperson Dillon: Asked for the minutes to reflect the need for a broader more refined discussion on types of awardees per category at the upcoming 2014 retreat.

Motion (Commissioner Bauer): Only include corporations in Corporate Champion of Diversity Award category, and move any non-profits to the Commendation category. Motion Passed.

Motion (Commissioner Bruce Abrams): A special commendation is issued to Interim Mayor Todd Gloria during the HRC ceremony separate from the regular commendations given each year.

3. Discussion of relevant principles reviewing 1st Amendment Rights

a. The December Dilemma

Commissioner Bauer: Talked about 1st Amendment separation of church and state and how promotes freedom for any religion to flourish. December this same issue comes up each year. Some topics traditionally discussed are that teachers can instruct based on historical events but not practice religion, it is not permissible to have a play about birth of Jesus or any religious portrayal, choirs can perform religious songs as long as there is a diverse representation of different faiths, and students can have prayer, but teachers cannot lead.

b. Special Permit Regulations

Karen Li, Deputy City Attorney: Referenced City of San Diego Municipal Code on equal access to process for obtaining parade permits. There is a list for reason of denial which includes mostly public safety and health.

c. 1st Amendment in civil life

Danell Scarborough, Executive Director: Evolution in schools and workplace on 1st Amendment, although in community still grey areas. Balancing act in respecting 1st Amendment rights and inclusion are unfolding and we are participating in that unfolding. We can participate as champions of values of respect, dignity and inclusion in civil life. That is our great joy and great challenge of living in an American community.

Public Comment

Howard Singer: Requesting the Commissions support in changing the name of the La Jolla Christmas Parade to a neutral non-religious title. Handed out packet and discussed materials which included a letter from attorney Jim McElroy, literature including the words of John Hammerstein's the South Pacific, Wikipedia page referencing La Jolla California, La Jolla Light editorials supporting name change, and article from 2005.

Debbie Allen: Requesting the Commissions support in changing the name of the La Jolla Christmas Parade to a neutral non-religious title. Born in San Diego, my mother part owner of Christmas holiday store. At some time I realized Christmas not universally celebrated by all. The name of the parade suggests the town of La Jolla is very much involved. In the public square we should make every effort to include all our neighbors. At no time is our nation more segregated than when we worship. Encinitas parade started as Christmas Parade and changed to Holiday Parade. Holiday parade is inclusive of all. I encourage a name that could even encourage religious minorities to become involved and represents our multicultural community.

William Adams: Requesting the Commissions support in changing the name of the La Jolla Christmas Parade to a neutral non-religious title. Skimmed the Jewish War Veterans Case regarding the cross in La Jolla. Things that jump out at me are the size of the parade taking on official status, context of exclusionary housing policies in La Jolla, and the message it delivers to others who may feel like outsiders.

Motion (Commissioner Bruce Abrams): Recommend both parties seek mediation from a third party mediator such as National Conflict Resolution Center and the HRC will send a letter to mayor and council recommending support of such mediation. Motion Passed.

4. **Possible commission responses regarding parade name**
Combined with agenda item 3 above.

V. INFORMATION AGENDA

- **Chair's Report**
 - None
- **Commissioners' Reports**
 - None

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- **Executive Director's Report**
 - None

VI. ADJOURNED MEETING AT 7:40 p.m.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE: November 20, 2013 (Awards Ceremony)

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