

Minutes
Human Relations Commission
City Council Chambers
January 19, 2006

Present: Rebecca Diaz, Chani Beeman, David St. Pierre, Sonya Walker, Claudia Johnson-Robinson, Aric Isom, John Bradriff, Kelly Keenan, Gladys Walker, Sherry Gordon, AJ Wilson, Haydee Llanes, Luz Negron-Bermo, Marisa Valdez-Yeager

Absent: Jan Moore (excused),

Staff: Pedro Payne, Jenna McAlmond, Jen Gray-O'Connor

I. Call to Order at 6:04

II. Approval of minutes

Motion: to approve the minutes of December 15, 2006

M/S/C: S. Walker/Johnson-Robinson/Carried

III. Public Comment

Mary Shelton-Ms. Shelton commented that she believes that the Commission on disabilities needs additional resources. She is also concerned with the issue of diversity training for the Riverside Police Department.

IV. Community Presentations and Group Discussions

A. Art Alcaraz, Youth Education and Motivation Program (YEMP)

The YEMP program allows speakers from all job sectors to meet and speak with middle school students about education. March 16th (Wells) and April 19th (Central) are future dates to participate in this program. Participants report to the schools early in the morning and go through a brief orientation as well as a presentation by the school band or other presenters. The speakers talk about themselves with the purpose of motivating the students to continue their education. The speakers present the real-world steps to reach their employment goals. The students are briefed before the presentation. The program was started in 1974 for the purpose of helping middle school children and has reached almost all of the area middle schools. C

V. Chair's Report

The Chair highlighted an event at the 1st Congregational Church regarding a dialogue across religious lines. Chairperson Wilson also mentioned his attendance at the recent CAHRO conference. He also mentioned that several commissioners had thanked him for sending Riverside HRC documents.

A. EYAC Liaison-Andrew highlighted his education teen fair on April 22, 2006 at the Ceaser Chavez Community Center. April 23 is the Multicultural Youth

Festival and EYAC will represent Jamaica. Michael Franklin also mentioned that the booth won 1st place at last year's event. The Chairperson referred the proposal to Education and Outreach. Andrew highlighted the Council's new marketing and branding efforts. Andrew also passed out a newsletter in which EYAC will have a place. He also mentioned EYACs participation in the MLK walk-a-thon. Michael Franklin also notified the Commission that his position has been moved from Development to the Park, Recreation, and Community Services Department.

- B. RPD Homeless Report, Officer Steve Warlick and Lt. Collopy- Commissioner Brandriff introduced the Police Department representatives. Lt. Collopy spoke to the size and difficulty of the homelessness problem. He mentioned that unless a homeless person is committing a crime, they cannot be arrested and that the public needs to recognize that fact. Lt. Collopy introduced Officer Warlick and mentioned his extensive day-to-day experiences with the homeless population in the west side of Riverside. Officer Warlick presented three issues of quality of life; 1) Neighborhoods-Officer Warlick mentioned that the safety of children is very important to residents. In addition, residents complain about theft, including recyclables. In addition, residents complain about fires, stray animals, and waste. 2) Businesses-Officer Warlick mentioned that businesses complain about theft, especially of shopping cards. He highlighted various efforts to mitigate that problem. In addition, he brought up the problem of metal theft for recycling funds and panhandling. Officer Warlick explained that individuals panhandling on highway or street medians are subject to citation because they are in the roadway. 3) Homeless individuals-Officer Warlick brought up the statistics regarding homeless individuals. He noted that the average age of homeless individuals is around 40 years of age and has been a veteran. 25 % of the homeless are physically disabled. In addition, the homeless population is relatively evenly split between male and female. He highlighted resources for homeless individuals such as Path of Life Ministries. Commissioner Isom asked when the second shelter would be available. Officer Warlick was unsure as to its completion but mentioned that it would be available to both men and women. Commissioner Beeman asked how homeless people in the Westside are to access the shelter. She highlighted the resources pamphlet that the Homeless Coordinator created and asked that Police Officers should carry. Executive Director Payne agreed to facilitate the distribution of the pamphlets. Officer Warlick reported that there is difficulty moving some homeless individuals to the shelter because they are satisfied utilizing materials to create their own shelter in more rural areas. Commissioner Diaz asked how the Commission can help. Officer Warlick suggested that Commissioners speak with homeless individuals and groups and encourage them to go to the homeless facility. Commissioner Diaz also asked about Spanish translation. Officer Warlick brought up the statistic that in LA County 76% of the homeless are U.S. born. Chairperson Wilson brought up the issue that the current homeless program is directed at assisting women and children.

C. Staffing assignments

Chairperson Wilson clarified to the Commission that the Office of Human Relations is a division of the City Manager's Department. He raised the concern that the new Commission on Disabilities will be housed in the Office of Human Relations. Chairperson Wilson let the Commission know that Assistant City Manager will meet with the Executive Committee on January 31 at 5pm. All Human Relations Commissioners are invited to attend this meeting. The Chairperson said that he met with the Assistant City Manager and filled him in on staffing history of the Human Relations Commission. The Chairperson asked that Mr. DeSantis further clarify the staffing assignment during the proposed meeting. Commissioner Beeman provided a letter from Linda Dunn to the Chairperson. Commissioners discussed their concerns and Chairperson Wilson asked that everyone attend the January 31st meeting. Chairperson Wilson asked that Commissioners who cannot attend the January 31st meeting, to write their comments down. Chairperson Wilson also highlighted the fact that the budget does not reflect the staffing realignment and asked that the budget be clarified.

VI. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director asked that Commissioners contact staff if they are interested in attending the Mayor's State of the City address and the Black History Month Parade. Staff will send an email requesting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. 2006 Goals and Priorities-

Chairperson Wilson introduced and explained the 2005 Goals and Priorities and asked that the Goals be updated for 2006. Chairperson Wilson asked that implementation be referred to subcommittees. This list will be revised and sent back to the Human Relations Commission from the subcommittees

B. Public Access Program

Commissioners received a proposal on the Public Access Program from Commissioner Beeman.

Motion: To approve, in concept, the proposed program

M/S/C: carried by consensus

VIII. Old Business

A. Ex-Officio Student Member by-law adjustments

Motion: to approve the by-law adjustments

M/S/C: Valdez Yeager/Beeman/Carried

IX. Committee and Task Force Reports

- A. RPD Liaison
- B. RPD Liaison Program
- C. Outreach and Education
- D. Governmental Affairs

X. Commissioners Comments

XI. Community Calendar

XII. Schedule of meetings

The Executive Committee will meet on January 31, at 5pm.

XIII. Adjournment at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Gray-O'Connor