

**MINUTES**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
3900 Main St., 7<sup>th</sup> fl-Mayor's Ceremonial Room  
Riverside, CA 92522  
April 21, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.  
826-5302/5709

**I. Call to Order at 6:08**  
**Motion: To move to item number 6**  
**M/S/C: Keenan/Gordon/Carried**

**II. Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2005**  
**Motion: To Approve the Minutes**  
**M/S/C: Beeman/Negron /Carried**

**III. Introductions and Citizen Participation**

**IV. Chairs Report**

The Chair highlighted the change in the May HRC meeting and asked for assistance in Commissioner Orientation. The Chair also mentioned the staff realignment retreat follow-up meeting, but would like to have that discussion at the Executive Committee with the interim City Manager. The Chair highlighted a communication from the Ethics Committee and opened up discussion regarding the questionnaire.

**V. Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director reported on the Youth Festival to facilitate discussion among young people and the Lao Buddhist New Year this last weekend. The Executive Director mentioned the staff realignment retreat follow-up meeting. The Executive Director brought up the agenda packet table of contents. He announced his appointment to the CAHRO board of directors.

**VI. Community Group Discussion**

No community discussion.

**A. District Attorney's Office – Gerry Lopez**

Gerry Lopez presented information about Project Safe Neighborhood for youth and community intervention. Mr. Lopez emphasized the organizations commitment to collaboration. Has approval from western Riverside County cities although still waiting for an MOU from Riverside City. The organizations approach is to adopt small areas to mitigate gang violence by bringing in all of the organizations and individuals that could possibly be involved. Mr. Lopez highlighted the organizations work in schools although they work with all individuals. Their goal is to bring together groups that are already working on the problem of gang violence. Mr. Lopez brought up the Desert Task Force as an example of comprehensive program.

**B. Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center – Ann-Marie Melendrez**

In order to reflect April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Crisis Center is working with the theme for the month "The best defense is self defense" to empower women with self-defense classes. According to FBI statistics 1 in 3 women will be sexual assaulted before the age of 18. The Center works to encourage victims to get help through community referrals and a 24-hour help line. The Center has tried to bring in volunteers that are trained and Spanish speaking to help the diverse Riverside community. The center currently has 9 paid staff members and 75 volunteers. The Center also does community outreach and education as well as a self-defense course for children called "Kid Power." "Women to Women" is a self-defense course for women. The next meeting will be May 4,2005. In 2003 Riverside had a rape an average of once ever 3 days. The crisis line number is 686-7273.

**VII. Old Business**

**A. Police Liaison Task Force**

Commissioner Beeman met with the Task force and will tentatively meet with the Lt. May 4. Each Commissioner will receive information about the program along with a questionnaire about their interests. The Executive Director and Lt. Bacon will finalize the Commissioner selections. This program will assist Commissioners to understand community problems through the lens of others. The Chair brought up that Commissioners would be expected to report on issues that they encounter through this experience.

**Motion: Approve the revised proposal**

**M/S/C: Beeman/St. Pierre/Carried**

**B. New Commissioner Attendance Rules**  
The Chair identified the proposed changes.

**Motion: Approve the revised rules**  
**M/S/C: Yeager/St. Pierre/Carried**

**C. Museum of Tolerance Sign up**  
Commissioners will signed up to attend the Museum of Tolerance field trip with EYAC

**IX. New Business**

A. Annual Report Card

**Motion: Approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report Card**  
**M/S/C: St. Pierre/Beeman/Carried**

**X. Committee and Task Force Reports**

All subcommittee and Task force Reports will be in the form of written reports sent with the agenda packet. This time on the agenda will be for questions on these notes.

**A. RPD Liaison-**

**B. Questions for Subcommittee Chairs**

**C. Homeless Task Force (included in Chairs report)**

**XI. Commissioners Comments**

**Luz**-Brought up the success of the Sherman Indian High School Pow Wow and the Lao Buddhist New Year.

**Beeman**-The Riverside African American Historical Society has a book that chronicles African American History in Riverside. There will be a book signing on May 15 at the Riverside Municipal Museum. 1,462 Homeless individuals in Riverside from the Census.

**Marisa**-Reported on the Chavez Center Health Fair.

**St. Pierre**-Requested that Staff provide Budget updates monthly

**Walker**-Reminded the Education and Outreach to bring their marketing ideas.

**Wilson**-Suggested that groups requesting sponsorship need to go through the committee process.

**Haydee**-Thanked staff for work on the display board.

**XII. Community Calendar**

Events have been identified by Commissioners and staff to be of interest to those involved with programs of the Commission. The May calendar was distributed at the meeting.

**XIII. Schedule of Meetings (all subcommittee meetings are held at City Hall, please check agenda for conference room location)**

- **Governmental Affairs: April 28, 2005 @ 5:30pm.**

- **Education and Outreach: April 25, 2005 @ 5:30 pm.**

- **Executive: May 3, 2005 @ 5:30 pm.**

- **Human Relations Commission: May 17, 2005 @ 6:00pm, Orientation at 4:30**

**XIV. Adjournment at 7:57**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Gray-O'Connor