

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Council Chambers, City Hall
3900 Main St., Riverside, CA 92522
May 18, 2006 @ 6pm
(951) 826-5302/5709/5427

I. Call to Order at 6:07

Commissioner asked that additional codes be added to the attendance sheet to represent when a quorum is not achieved and which commissioners were in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes –

Motion: April 20, 2006

M/S/C: Wilson/Gordon/Carried

III. Introductions and Public Comment

No public comment

IV. Chairs Report

The Chair reported that Human Relations staff, Jenna McAlmond and Jen Gray-O'Connor have been reassigned to other duties. She also reported that Commissioner Keenan has resigned from the Commission for personal reasons. The Chair reported that City Attorney Greg Priamos will be providing Brown Act and Ethics training during the June meeting. Commissioner Beeman expressed her concern that the staffing reassignment is in retaliation for the letter sent to the Human Resources Board. She objects strongly as the decision was done without consolation to the staff and to the commission. Commissioner Wilson asked for a report on the 2007 budget recommendations. He also noted that he will be presenting the Annual Report to the City Council. Commissioner Moore noted that the Outreach and Education meeting will be held on Tuesday.

Chairperson Diaz asked that the letter to the Human Resources Board be addressed directly to the City Manager's Office. Commissioner Brandriff asked that a cover letter be attached to the letter explaining the Commission's views on the recent staffing be acknowledged. Commissioner Beeman asked for an expanded copy of the personnel diversity statistics be included in the next letter. Staff agreed to label the attachment to reflect the document as executive level statistics.

MOTION: Letter to be sent to Mayor, City Council, with the Human Resources Board letter as an attachment.

M/S/C: Beeman/Brandriff/Carried

A. EYAC Liaison-

EYAC has been working with the October 13th Character Counts Event. EYAC is forming a subcommittee to work on the student award nominations. City Officials will be invited to attend. The June issue of the DEMO newsletter will be sent out soon. EYAC will be going to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles soon. They are working with various partners to develop an Eastside scholarship. Andrew reported that EYAC had a successful booth at the Youth Multicultural Fest, though they did not win the "best booth" award.

V. Community Presentations and Group Discussion

A. Kristin Tillquist, Chief of Staff to Mayor Loveridge

Kristin reported that the new League of Cities President has an initiative called "The Partnership for working toward an inclusive community". He has asked that all cities create an endorse an inclusively statement. Kristin noted that the Human Relations Commission had already endorsed an earlier version in 2002. Commissioner Gordon asked when the City is going to make this statement more than a superficial statement. She wishes to send a message to the Mayor that this statement would be false. Commissioner Isom echoed Commissioner Gordon's comments and also asked that the contact information as the Human Relations Commission be removed. Commissioner Medina also indicated that the statement is a façade. Commissioner Brandriff seconded the comments of Commissioner Gordon especially as the Human Relations Commission is sending a letter to the City Manager indicating that staff of color are being dismissed. Commissioner Wilson asked that the statement be endorsed but that the Mayor know that the Commission needs more resources, not less, to address these issues. Commissioner Moore stated that she wants the statement to be practiced so that the Human Relations Commission can do what it needs to do. Commissioner Beeman stated that she believes in the statement, but that

she doesn't see it realized in the current City administration. Chairperson Diaz stated that that she believes the Mayor 's vision of inclusively. She stated that there are significant issues facing the staff of City Hall, many of whom are Riverside residents. She stated that the Human Relations Commission cannot be effective without staff. The Human Relations Commission cannot continue to hold community programming without staff and the actions by the City Manager show that there is not support for these efforts. She hopes that the Mayor is aware of the dismantling of the Human Relations Commission and the strong feelings of the Commissioners. Ms. Tillquist indicated that this item will be a discussion item in June City Council meeting. Commissioner Wilson asked that the endorsement must come with the message.

Motion: To endorse the "Building a more inclusive Riverside Community" Statement and it's policies and ask that the Mayor take back the message to the City Council that more, not less, resources need to be allocated to this end, and at a minimum no reduction in the staffing levels for the Human Relations Commission.

M/S/C: Wilson/Gordon/not carried

Motion: To send a letter stating the beliefs of the Human Relations Commission as to why the Commission will not endorse the statement.

M/S/C: Isom/not carried

VI. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the "Community Healing" meeting. He commended Larry Gonzales for his handling of the meeting. The Executive Director reported that he and Commissioner Beeman are still working on the RPD Diversity training. Commissioner Brandriff asked that a letter be send to Larry Gonzales thanking him for his wonderful job. The Executive Director agreed to send that letter. Commissioner Medina commented that she participate in the May 1st march and she stated that the group participated really well and that it was enlightening for the students.

VII. New Business

A. Department of Justice Mediation Training

Chairperson Diaz reported that the Executive Commission met with James Williams from the Department of Justice and that he offered to provide mediation training. She noted that there was some discussion on the training format as the usual training session is a 40-hour training over 5 days. The Committee asked that the training be offered in an alternative format. Staff will clarify the mediation certification process.

Motion: That the Commission support Community Mediation training and that this item be assigned to the City Manger's office for completion.

M/S/C: Beeman/Gordon/Carried

B. Subcommittee Attendance

The Chair suggested that the Committees work on a specific item as they come up. Commissioner Beeman suggested that a task force look at the issue and examine how other Commissions operate.

Motion: To create a task force and ask that the City manager's office staff that task force

C. Personnel Subcommittee

Commissioner Gordon suggests that this issue be addressed by an ad-hoc committee so that it can be resolved shortly. The Executive Director clarified that the letter needs to be approved by the Human Resources Board. Commissioner Beeman suggested that the Chair and Vice-Chair work with the Human Resources Board until an action can be formulated.

VIII. Old Business

A. HRC Script

The Commission reviewed an informational and promotional script, developed and approved through the Outreach and Education Committee, as well as the Executive Subcommittee.

Motion: To approve the HRC Script

M/S/C: Brandriff/Moore/Carried

Motion: that HRC staff be allowed to continue to work on this item.

M/S/C: Moore/Brandriff/Carried

B. HRC Community Access Program

Commissioner Beeman reported that she has not been able to receive information regarding the grant process.

She asked that staff find out what the protocols are for applying for the Community Access programming grant money.

Motion: that authorization to prepare and present a public records request for the protocols and information necessary for this community to submit such a grant.

M/S/C: Gordon/Brandriff/Carried

C. Ex-officio Student Membership

Commissioner Beeman suggested that the Human Relations Commission work with EYAC and the Youth Multicultural Council to find a youth member. Commissioner Gordon stated that the original intent of this membership was to recruit from a wider pool of applicants. Commissioner Brandriff suggested that a letter be sent to Riverside Unified, Alvord, California School for the Deaf, and Sherman Indian High School

Motion: That Commissioner Gordon draft a letter to the school district

M/S/C: Gordon/Brandriff/Carried

D. Day of Dialogue: Immigration

Commissioner Moore asked for staff support in designing and implementing a study circle program. She reported that the 1st Congregational and Universal Unitarian Church be possible locations for the Study Circle Program. Commissioner Beeman suggested that the Commission work with other organizations doing similar immigration programs.

IX. Committee and Task Force Reports

- A. RPD Liaison**-Phil Neglia reported that the Wood Crests Killers have been identified as a gang after the stabbing in the Orange Crest area. Schools officials have not identified any current Martin Luther King High School students as a member of this gang. A unit has been allocated to this effort.
- B. RPD Liaison Program**-Commissioners reported that the program is going well but that Commissioner Keenan will need to be replaced. Commissioner Brandriff will be assigned to Lt. Perea. Commissioner Beeman reported that there have been some robberies in the Fairmount Park area.
- C. Outreach and Education**
- D. Governmental Affairs**
- E. Homeless Task Force**-a written report was provided by Commissioner Wilson. Commissioner Beeman reported that the City of Riverside has been dealing with homelessness; however, the county is not. She requests that the Commission do some inquiries into the Riverside County's management of the homeless.

X. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Moore: Commented that the Human Relations Commission has a special mandate to unify the community; however, with the loss of staff, she wonder if the Human Relations Commission disrespect is due to the fact that the Commissioners are volunteers. She wonders what good will come of a letter or showing up at a meeting unless it is done in force. She wants the City to know that the Commission is very, very upset. She would like to know if other City Commissions are being similarly disrespected

Commissioner Medina-She stated that she has taken pride in being a Human Relations Commissioner. She stated that the Eastside gang activity has diminished with intervention and programs. Commissioner Medina served as a judge for the Cinco de Mayor festival in Casa Blanca. She stated that the disrespect that the Commission is receiving undermines the work of the Commission.

Chairperson Diaz-She stated that the Commission has worth and that individual Commissioners make an impact on the Community.

Commissioner Beeman-Reported on positive events in the Community, such as the Peace Officers Memorial and the Youth Multicultural Festival. Commissioner Beeman asked that the ground that has been made by current staff not be lost. She specifically asked that the legislative updates, community calendar, and participation in CAHRO.

Commissioner Brandriff-Asked for a copy of the Community Calendar and Civil Rights Watch

Commissioner Reyes-Affirmed his dedication to the Mission Statement and asked that the City Management support those values.

XI. Community Calendar

Commissioners signed up for the Juneteenth celebration. The June Calendar will be mailed to Commissioners.

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

- Governmental Affairs: Thursday, May 25 , 2006 @ 5:30pm
- Education and Outreach: Tuesday**, May 23, 2006 @ 5:30 pm **please note change in date
- Executive: Thursday June 1, 2006 @ 6 pm
- Human Relations Commission: Thursday, June 15, 2006 @ 6pm

XIII. Items for Future Commission Consideration

XIV. Adjournment at 8:06pm.