

**MINUTES**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
Villegas Community Center  
7260 Marguerita St., Riverside, CA 92504  
September 15, 2005 @ 6pm  
(951) 826-5302/5709/5427

**I. Call to Order at 6:12pm.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Attendance**

Corrections: Commissioners will make corrections and return the attendance sheet to staff.

**II. Approval of Minutes – July 21, 2005**

*Motion: To Approve the Minutes of July 21, 2005*

*M/S/C: Gordon/Diaz/Carried*

Chairperson Wilson asked that Commissioner St. Pierre and Commissioner Beeman's comments should be reflected. In addition, Chairperson Wilson's comments should be noted as summery.

**III. Introductions and Public Comment**

- Linda Dunn-Highlighted the Nonviolent Peaceforce Event scheduled October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**IV. Community Presentations and Group Discussion**  
**National Hispanic Heritage Month**

**A. L. Lino Luna, Executive Director of Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services**

Mr. Luna shared programs of the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services. The Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services is a non-profit community center. He shared that 70% of Casa Blanca residents speak Spanish. The center offers services for residents of all ages. The center offers services ranging from tax preparation assistance to financial assistance for home gas needs. In addition, the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services offers translation services, after school help, and other programs designed at assisting youth.

The agency receives funding from public as well as private grants and donations, including funding from the City of Riverside. The agency is located at 7680 Casa Blanca St. Executive Director Payne asked what young people need to learn from the celebration of Hispanic Heritage month. Mr. Luna replied that young people need to appreciate their heritage through celebrating September 16<sup>th</sup> as an important holiday. Commissioner Beeman shared that she attended an event from the Casa Blanca agency and offered the assistance of the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Diaz asked what are the three biggest issues Latino youth in Casa Blanca are facing. Mr. Luna reiterated that the youth need services. In addition, to provide those services the agency needs funding. One issue facing youth is staying in school. Mr. Luna also believes that youth need to stay away from drugs and to have access to job opportunities.

**B. Andy Melendrez, President of the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Mr. Melendrez shared that he grew up in the Casa Blanca neighborhood. Mr. Melendrez shared that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is comprised of 8 board members. He highlighted the diversity of the board members. In addition, he shared with the Commission that the Chamber holds lecture series focusing on broad topics relating to business. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Chamber will be celebrating Dia de los Muertos. The chamber is working to include those business owners who have limited English-speaking skills. Mr. Melendrez shared that the Chamber has doubled in size and financial capacity. He indicated that the Chamber would like to be more involved in the community. Commissioner Valdez Yeager highlighted the difficulty that small "mom and pop" business experience, particularly in the Latino community. Commissioner Llanes asked if the Chamber has many Cubans. Mr. Melendrez replied that the Chamber does not ask for Nationality.

## **V. Chairs Report**

The Chair reported on matters that were addressed on behalf of the Commission since the last meeting. The Chair distributed materials for Commissioners to sign up for community events. Chairperson Wilson highlighted the National Department of Justice Racial Profiling Study attached to the Chair's report. Commissioner Beeman asked about the issue of staffing realignment. She asked about the objectives set up through the staffing realignment retreat. Chairperson Wilson replied that the objectives have been met.

## **VI. Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director reported on activities of the Human Relations Office, related City department activities, and on staff actions on Commission programs. Executive Director Payne highlighted his appointment to the CAHRO board. He related that the CAHRO annual meeting will be held in January. He also highlighted the RPD Liaison program.

### **A. City of Riverside Hurricane Katrina Aid Response update**

Mayor Loveridge asked that Executive Director Payne update the Commission on the City's response and ask if the Commission could be involved in aiding the refugees that may be relocating to the City. Commissioner Beeman asked about relief aid. Executive Director Payne explained efforts by the City to send funding. Commissioner Beeman shared with the Commission that the Loa Buddhist Temple will be hosting a fundraising event on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 11-2:30. Chairperson Wilson also let the commission know about a fundraiser from the First Congregational Church. Commissioner Valdez Yeager related the difficulty churches in the affected areas have in finding funding. She also related the efforts of Peace Corps alumni assisting in relief efforts. Chairperson Wilson also highlighted a recent New York Times editorial that discussed the affects of poverty particularly as they related to Hurricane Katrina.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Access Riverside**

Commissioner Sonya Walker asked that the Commission allocate \$2,652 for marketing.

*Motion: HRC approve funding and a marketing plan as developed through the Education and Outreach Committee as well as the Executive Committee.*

*M/S/C: Gordon/Yeager/Carried*

### **B. Horizon Line**

HRC received an update from Outreach and Education Chair Commissioner Sonya Walker regarding plans to present Horizon Line at Sherman Indian High School. Executive Director Payne thanked Connie Leech for her recruiting efforts.

### **C. 05/06 Human Relations Commission Budget**

*Motion: HRC approve the 2005/2006 program initiatives line item budget amounts.*

*M/S/C: S.Walker/Isom/Carried*

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Eastside Violence**

HRC received an update on current Citywide and Human Relations Commission proposed actions as discussed through the Executive Committee. Although the Executive Director tried to meet with the Eastside ThinkTank, their meeting was canceled. A meeting planned with the Department of Justice was also canceled due to department activities for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Chairperson Wilson highlighted an attachment in his Chair's report that describes the City's efforts in the Eastside. As he noted, many of these efforts are focused on police intervention. Executive Director Payne reiterated the concerns expressed during the Council meeting. Commissioner Beeman stated that research needs to be done to inventory what efforts are already underway to assist the Eastside. Commissioner Valdez Yeager suggested that the Commission partner with the Eastside Youth

Council. Commissioner Diaz asked that this report be a part of a larger dialogue with the community and that the community offer feedback on the information.

## **B. Race Equality Week**

*Motion: HRC ratify plans, as approved through the Executive Committee, for Race Equality Week activities and funding.*

*M/S/C: Gordon/S.Walker/Carried*

## **C. Marketing Campaign Kick Off Event**

*HRC approved funding (through item VII.C) for marketing activities as developed through the Education and Outreach Committee as well as the Executive Committee.*

## **IX. Committee and Task Force Reports**

- A. RPD Liaison**-Executive Director explained that the new RPD Liaison, Paul Villanueva, will be present at the next HRC meeting.
- B. RPD Liaison Program**-Commissioner Beeman highlighted the upcoming meeting.
- C. Outreach and Education**-Commissioner Walker reiterated plans as expressed through the HRC Agenda.
- D. Governmental Affairs**-The Committee did not meet.

## **X. Commissioners Comments**

Commission Negron Bermo reminded the Commission about the Family Village Festival on October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am-5pm.

Commissioner Isom highlighted Allensworth Town event on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in the event need to meet at 7am at Bordwell Park and will return at 8-9pm.

Commissioner Valdez Yeager related her knowledge gained at a conference in Washington D.C. She also stated that in November there is an Italian Day at the Metropolitan Museum. November 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for enrollment in a Latina Leadership Opportunity.

Commissioner Haydee Llanes asked for clarification on Governmental Affairs meetings.

Commissioner Brandriff asked for clarification on the case of a transgendered individual and his claim against the RPD. He also asked for clarification on Chairperson Wilson's editorial response as related in the July HRC meeting.

## **XI. Community Calendar**

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

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

- Governmental Affairs: September 22, 2005 @ 5:45pm
- Education and Outreach: September 19, 2005 @ 5:30 pm.
- Executive: October 4, 2005 @ 5:30 pm.
- Human Relations Commission: October 20, 2005 @ 6pm

## **XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business of the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Gray-O'Connor