



City of Riverside

**Human
Relations
Commission**

**Annual Report
2007**

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Human Relations Commission Mission Statement:

The City of Riverside's Human Relations Commission advocates for equal opportunity, Justice, and access in the City to services and opportunities. The Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect between people, encourages education and outreach and develops and promotes programs which work to eliminate prejudice and discrimination



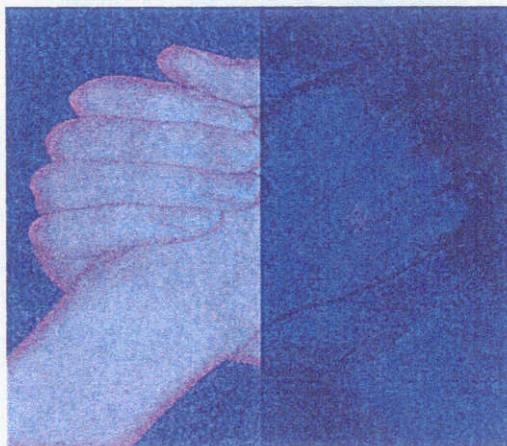
Introduction

This is the fifth edition of the Human Relations Commission's Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to present to the public an insight as to the work of the commission in advocating for equal opportunity, justice, and access to services and opportunities in the City of Riverside.

With an operating budget of \$17,000, the Human Relations Commission is charged with fostering mutual understanding and respect between people; encouraging education and outreach, and developing and promoting programs which work to eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

The report is divided into sections starting with this introduction. We have included the Chairperson's message, a list of accomplishments, followed by a section that introduces our Commissioners, includes event photographs from some of our events and programs during 2007, describes our organizational partnerships, and answers some frequently asked questions, and the current budget.

We hope you find this report useful and enjoyable to read. If you have any questions about this report, feel free to call our office staff at (951) 826-5897. You can also e-mail us at hrc@riversideca.gov or visit our website at www.riversideca.gov/hrc.



Message from the Chairperson

It has been an eventful transitional period in the life of the Human Relations Commission. Our list of accomplishments highlights our focus on the ongoing mission of community involvement, responsiveness to community concerns, and securing opportunities to showcase the commitment to inclusion and diversity in the City of Riverside. In carrying out our mission, the Commission continues to:

- Identify areas of community concern
- Develop responses to meet those concerns.
- Work with public and private entities to ensure fair and just treatment for all who find themselves in our city.

The responses to community concerns have included:

- Upgrading of Commission marketing materials.
- Outreach efforts at community events and coordination with community partners
- Hosting ethnically and culturally diverse community events
- Assessing current economic and business trends in light of a growing acceptance and valuing of matters of inclusion and diversity.

The continued population growth and physical development of the City of Riverside creates new challenges and opportunities. An additional endeavor that the Commission hopes to accomplish is to engage the business community as a partner in making Riverside an all-inclusive City. By accomplishing this task, our City's businesses can expect to yield greater penetration into new markets that perhaps they have never been able to reach. It is within this ever-changing landscape that the Commission continues its work.

Sincerely yours,

Omar Zaki, Chairman

Human Relations Commission List of Accomplishments

2007

- Commissioners hosted information booth at the Mayor's Annual State of the City Address.
- Commissioners participated in quarterly Mayor's Multicultural Forums
- Commissioners attended ceremony of the first graduating class of the Eleanor Jean Grier Leadership Academy
- Commissioners and Staff attended the Riverside Coalition for Police Accountability (RCPA) and the Eastside Think Tank's panel discussion and community dialogue on issues of police accountability.
- Commissioners participated in the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County's Volunteer training.
- The Commission sponsored a week of artistic and culturally diverse Community events for the 2007 Race Equality Week.
- Commissioners held a community engagement session to gather diverse community input for the formulation of RPD's Diversity and Cross Cultural Communication Training.
- Commissioners assisted in the development of Riverside Police Department's Liaison Program

- Commissioners assisted the Jeffrey Owens Community Center to host a Downtown Safety Forum
- Commissioners assisted in the production of a comprehensive Hate Crimes brochure to be used by law enforcement and the Western Inland Empire Coalition Against Hate (WIECAH).
- Commissioners facilitated a meeting between concerned citizens of Riverside's Islamic community and Police Chief Russ Leach, in response to incidents of police profiling that had been occurring in the Los Angeles Islamic community.
- Chairman Zaki was a guest speaker at the Riverside Chamber of Commerce's August 2007 meeting of Good Morning Riverside.
- The Commission requested Mayor and City Council to file an Amicus Brief in Support of Same-Sex Marriage.
- The Commission requested Mayor and City Council to Re-Affirm the City of Riverside's Inclusive Community Statement.
- Commissioners conducted a workshop at the annual Riverside Neighborhoods Conference
- Commissioners taught a session on Cultural Diversity for the Riverside Leadership Academy
- Chairman Zaki was a speaker for the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's October 2007 "Que Pasa Riverside" business luncheon.