



City of Richmond  
**Human Rights  
& Human Relations Commission**  
**Minutes**

**Monday, February 27, 2012 at 6:30 pm**  
**City Council Chambers, Community Services Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond CA 94804**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights & Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6.34 pm by Chairperson Feyer.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Burrus-Wright, Gonzalez, Harris, Sullivan, Vice-Chair Brown, and Chairperson Feyer.

Absent: Commissioners Pareja and (Commissioner Saunders arrived at 6.56 pm).

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Chairperson Feyer, noted changes to the estimated discussion times listed on the agenda for the following items: K-3; K-4; K-5; K-6; K-7; K-8; and K-11. Also, the Chairs' Report would be given prior to the end of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No Action.

**OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public requested to speak.

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Councilmember Beckles was absent. No Report.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Commissioner Harris reported that the Commission's last retreat was held in the Fall of 2007 and suggested that consideration be given for scheduling a retreat.

**STAFF REPORT**

Everett Jenkins, Senior Assistant City Attorney, offered clarification on serial meetings, from the Ralph M. Brown Act, as it related to committees and reports distributed to committee members. Mr. Jenkins concluded that committees comprised of four (4) members of the Commission, could not include a fifth member of the Commission in its committee decisions. He also concluded that reports or brochures may be distributed to the Commission following the official posting of the agenda packet, provided that those materials are made available to the public.

Patrick Seals, Staff Liaison, reported that copies of the endorsement letter mailed for SB 810 – Single Payer Universal Health Care would be provided to the Commission.

**DISCUSSION**

**1. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioners Burrus-Wright, Harris, Brown, Gonzalez, and Chairperson Feyer offered a perspective of the benefits and pride felt from the Special Meeting on January 30, 2012, when César Chavez Elementary School students presented their Artistically Write and Speak Aloud Projects (AWASA). On motion of Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Commissioner Harris, approved the March 19, 2012, HRHRC meeting at 6:00 pm for Olinda Elementary School AWASA; April 16, 2012, HRHRC

meeting at 6:00 pm for Stege Elementary School and Riverside Elementary School Students AWASA, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners Gonzalez, Harris, Saunders, Sullivan, Vice Chair Brown, and Chairperson Feyer. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Commissioner Pareja

## 2. BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the budget committee had met and conferred with Mr. Seals regarding budget details. She continued with an overview of expenditures, balances, as well as the timeline as it related to the deadline for finalizing the HRHRC budget. Commissioner Sullivan also noted that staffing needs for an intern could impact the budget. Discussion and comments continued. On motion of Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, approved a budget that exceeded \$10,000, to include a retreat, intern and Artistically Write and Speak Aloud by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners Gonzalez, Harris, Saunders, Sullivan, Vice Chair Brown, and Chairperson Feyer. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Commissioner Pareja.

## 3. SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Chairperson Feyer gave an overview and background on the Sisters in Solidarity event scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2012. Chairperson Feyer identified that the Commission's sponsorship of the event necessitates the attendance of at least one (1) commissioner and she requested volunteers. Discussion and comments continued. Commissioners Gonzalez and Harris both committed to attending the event. On motion of Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by Vice Chair Brown, approved the sponsorship of the Sisters in Solidarity Event, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners Gonzalez, Harris, Saunders, Sullivan, Vice Chair Brown, and Chairperson Feyer. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Commissioner Pareja.

## 4. SAFFRON STRAND CONFERENCE ENDORSEMENT

Chairperson Feyer gave an overview and background on the Saffron Strand Conference scheduled for June 18-19, 2012, at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. On motion of Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, approved the endorsement of the Third Annual Saffron Strand Conference on Homelessness, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners Gonzalez, Harris, Saunders, Sullivan, Vice Chair Brown, and Chairperson Feyer. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Commissioner Pareja.

## 5. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the Employment Committee had not met, but will be schedule a meeting to discuss the status of the employment ordinance and various employment projects in Richmond.

## 6. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND EMERGENCY ISSUES COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Sullivan reported that she had received one (1) request surrounding community concerns from a resident. She followed up with the concerned resident and offered referral to various legal aid organizations and resources.

## 7. CULTURE OF PEACE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Feyer gave an update and offered her experiences with the CEASEFIRE Program, and noted that a more thorough update would be made at the next regular meeting of the HRHRC, by representatives from the Police Department and the community. Chairperson Feyer reported that the initial CEASEFIRE "Call-Ins" are scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2012, and Friday, March 2, 2012, with a final volunteer training being held on Wednesday, February 29, 2012. Discussion and comments continued. The following individual gave public comment: Jeff Romm.

## 8. COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the committee, which includes, Pastor Henry Washington, Frederick Muhammad, Captain Mark Gagan, and Chairperson Vivien Feyer had not met due to the preparation of CEASEFIRE "Call-Ins". She continued that a meeting was being scheduled for next week.

## 9. CIVILITY AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Chairperson Feyer offered an overview of the issues behind the recommendations to the City Council, specifically in relation to the Code of Ethics. In addition, a review and discussion continued of the

February 7, 2012, City Council Meeting, as it was the initial meeting of the Council's institution of the reading of the Code of Ethics at the Commission's recommendation. Further discussion and comments continued. The following individual gave public comment: Juana (Janie) Anker. On motion of Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Commissioner Harris, approved the re-establishment of the Code of Ethics (Conduct) Committee as a seven (7) member committee, comprised of up to four (4) HRHR Commissioners, with options for Councilmembers and members of the public to participate by the following vote: **Ayes:** *Commissioners Gonzalez, Harris, Saunders, Sullivan, Vice Chairperson Brown, and Chairperson Feyer.* **Noes:** *None.* **Abstentions:** *None.* **Absent:** *Commissioner Pareja.* Commissioner Sullivan selected Chair of the Code of Ethics (Conduct) Committee and Commissioner Saunders will also serve as a member.

#### **10. COMMISSION PROTOCOL**

Mr. Seals gave an overview of new protocols and guidelines as they relate to deadline for placing items on the agenda, agenda setting, and the HRHRC Agenda Item request form. Discussion and comments continued. On motion of Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, approved the new HRHRC agenda setting process, by the following vote: **Ayes:** *Commissioners Gonzalez, Harris, Saunders, Sullivan, Vice Chair Brown, and Chairperson Feyer.* **Noes:** *None.* **Abstentions:** *None.* **Absent:** *Commissioner Pareja.*

#### **11. ESTABLISH A PROTOCOL FOR HRHR COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS WITH CITY COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE**

Commissioner Sullivan gave an overview of the various roles that a commissioner has: resident, business owner, commissioner, friend, etc. Commissioner Sullivan stated that the establishment of a protocol for communications might be helpful in eliminating or decreasing the likelihood of conflicts of interest, bias, or the perception of conflicts of interest. Discussion and comments continued. On motion of Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Commissioner Harris, approved a 10 minute time extension of the HRHRC meeting, by the following vote: **Ayes:** *Commissioners Gonzalez, Harris, Saunders, Sullivan, Vice Chair Brown, and Chairperson Feyer.* **Noes:** *None.* **Abstentions:** *None.* **Absent:** *Commissioner Pareja.*

#### **12. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND: ESTABLISHED BETTER COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner Sullivan reported that a sub-committee, of at least three (3) commissioners from various boards and commissions, is scheduled to meet March 1, 2012, to discuss planning and preparation to improve intercommunication for all boards and commissions. A draft letter inviting boards and commissions' chairs and vice chairs to a luncheon, tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2012, is awaiting finalization. She continued that ultimately the purpose of improving communication is to understand commonalities, the need for trainings, and address challenges.

### **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

#### **1. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairperson Feyer noted the following items would need to be carried over to the next regular meeting: K-1, K-2, K-6 (constant placeholder), K-7, K-8, and K-9. Also, the Office of Neighborhood Safety's Annual Report is scheduled to be heard at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Burrus-Wright asked that consideration be made for agendaizing only items that are likely to be addressed during the meeting they are set for.

#### **2. FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Sullivan shared that the commission needs to be a true example of the Code of Ethics. Commissioner Saunders spoke in memorial of the lives of her nieces who had passed: Ebony Webb and Akelah Kelly. Vice Chair Brown praised the efforts of staff for expediting the meeting. Commissioner Burrus-Wright shared that discourse, does not mean lack of civility. Also, Commissioner Burrus-Wright notified everyone of her families new internet gospel radio show, and distributed fliers.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairperson Feyer spoke in support of a commission retreat, and also, shared her desire to communicate with all the commissioners surrounding their passions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m., in memory of Ebony Webb and Akelah Kelly, to meet again on Monday, March 19, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

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