



**City of Richmond  
Human Rights and  
Human Relations Commission  
MEETING MINUTES**

*Vivien Feyer, Chair  
Rock Brown, Vice Chair  
Betty Burrus-Wright, PhD, Commissioner  
Kathleen Sullivan, Commissioner*

*Courtney Cummings, Commissioner  
Demetria Saunders, Commissioner  
Joyce Harris, Commissioner  
Jasmine Jones, Commissioner*

*Councilmember Jovanka Beckles  
Council Liaison*

*Sr. Asst. City Attorney, Everett Jenkins  
Commission Intern, Jantsan Damdinsuren*

Monday, May 20, 2013 at 6:30 pm  
City Council Chambers, Community Services Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairperson Feyer.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Feyer, Vice-Chair Brown, Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Sullivan, Commissioner Saunders, Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Jones.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Cummings

**AGENDA REVIEW**

At the Chair's discretion, discussion item K. 6 was moved immediately after K.2.

**OPEN FORUM #1**

Jackie Thompson spoke about the meeting of the Boards and Commissions Meeting 2 in efforts to establish better coordination on Thursday, May 23th, 2013 at the Nevin Community Center.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None.

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

None

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Sullivan extended invitations to everyone to come to Ms. Naomi Williams' 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported that she worked with West Contra Costa Country Read program and gave out close to 100 UDHR booklets. She also attended Richmond Tales. The West County School District put a book authored by Summer Brenner in all fourth grade classes.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairperson Feyer reported that she had attended the Richmond Tales Festival, where the HRHRC had a significant presence and distributed educational materials. She recommended that everyone attend the upcoming Richmond Tales theatre event. She commended the work of the staff for putting together the Commission's agenda and attending the Cinco de Mayo event. Over the past three weeks, she has attended several meetings in the community including the ongoing meetings of the Ceasefire working group, a national convening of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee and a meeting with the City Manager as a follow up to last month's HRHRC meeting. She finds it challenging to give an accurate presentation of the concerns brought to the Commission and decisions made by the Commission without any written record of the Commission's public meetings, and she continues to advocate for the prompt preparation of minutes. Chairperson Feyer reminded all present about the upcoming Special Meeting of the HRHRC on June 3<sup>rd</sup> around workplace bullying. She encouraged Commissioners to put forward items for the Agenda.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Patrick Lynch reported that the City Manager requested to have two separate meetings instead of having one meeting with city officials per Commission's request from April 22, 2013 meeting. City Manager conveyed that he is willing to meet with Commissioners separately first. And then if the Commission desires to have that second meeting then the staff awaits directions.

Attorney Everett Jenkins pointed out that the Bylaws do not specifically mention how agendas are prepared. So at this moment in time, it is at the Commission's discretion how agendas might be prepared. Mr. Jenkins recommended to discuss this at a meeting or a retreat.

Intern Jantsan Damdinsuren conveyed his appreciation for having him on the Commission.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **K. 1 COMMITTEE REPORT: CULTURE OF PEACE**

**RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY, CEASEFIRE, REENTRY, AND COLLABORATION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IN RICHMOND**

**a) HEAR PRESENTATION FROM NCA JOE McCOY AND KEVIN YARBROUGH OF THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY**

*Chairperson Feyer, Commissioner Sullivan, Commissioner Saunders and Commissioner Jones*  
Chairperson Feyer introduced Neighborhood Change Agent (NCA) Joe McCoy. Mr. McCoy is representing the Office of Neighborhood Safety with the newest NCA, Kevin Yarbrough. Mr. Yarbrough gave a brief overview of the ONS' Junior Fellowship Program. The Junior Fellowship program was envisioned to provide opportunities for young people identified as possible future perpetrators or victims of gun violence to transform their life paths. Currently the fellowship is designed particularly for individuals who are between the ages of 18 and 25. ONS has already identified 25 young people for the program and looks forward to providing mentoring to these young people. Important venues ONS utilizes to achieve the goals of the fellowship program are through schools, parents and community outreach programs. Neighborhood Change Agents like Joe and Kevin are mentoring these young people and preventing them from involvement in

gun violence. Representatives concluded their remarks with "it takes a village to raise a child" and urged the city government and members of the public to contribute to the positive efforts of ONS.

The Commission commended the work of the ONS and thanked the representatives for coming to the meeting to report on the recent developments.

**K.2 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS IN THE CA STATE LEGISLATURE TO STRENGTHEN GUN CONTROL LAWS**

**MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL, APPROVE HRHRC RESOLUTION, AND APPROVE LETTER TO STATE SENATOR HANCOCK**

*Chairperson Feyer*

Chairperson Feyer introduced the item, as an opportunity for the Commission to have a voice on this important matter, and to support the efforts of Mayor McLaughlin, Councilmembers Beckles and Butt to bring this to Richmond's City Council. This item will appear on Council's agenda at the next meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, May 21, 2013. Recently much has come to the City Council around strengthening gun control laws. Chairperson Feyer reviewed for the Commission bills that are being formulated around strengthening gun laws at the state level. A motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, to approve the following resolutions:

(1) HRHRC Resolution to the Richmond City Council and,

(2) HRHRC Resolution to CA Senator Hancock , expressing support of efforts in the CA State legislature to strengthen gun control laws.

Staff is instructed to write cover letters from the HRHRC to (1) the Richmond City Council and (2) CA Senator Hancock.

In addition, staff is instructed to deliver and send the resolutions and letters to respective recipients by Friday, May 23, 2013. The motion was passed by the following vote of the Commission:

**AYE:** Chairperson Feyer, Vice-Chair Brown, Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Sullivan, Commissioner Saunders, Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Jones. **NOES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** None. **ABSENT:** Commissioner Cummings

A member of the public, Jackie Thompson, questioned if Commissioners have read all bills listed on the resolution passed by the Commission.

**K. 3 TRAININGS – 2013**

**REPORT BACK FROM COMMISSIONERS ATTENDING TRAININGS**

*Commissioner Cummings and Commissioner Jones*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K.4 HRHRC CALENDAR FOR 2013 AND 2014**

**DISCUSS CITY OF RICHMOND EVENTS AND APPROVE HRHRC PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION**

*Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Commissioner Cummings*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K. 5 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

**DISCUSS FUTURE PLANS FOR "ARTISTICALLY WRITE AND SPEAK ALOUD" AND ADDITIONAL PROJECTS; APPROVE COMMISSION LETTERS TO SCHOOLS**

*Committee Chair Burrus-Wright, Commission Vice-Chair Brown, and Commissioner Harris*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K. 6 COMMITTEE REPORT: PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET**

**a) DISCUSS PLANNING FOR UPDATED HRHRC BROCHURE;**

Chairperson Feyer proposed that the bulk of the printing cost for printing the updated HRHRC brochures come from the 2012/2013 HRHRC budget. The Commission requested an updated brochure to be made by next meeting of the Commission. Mr. Lynch proposed that staff will report on printing costs at the next meeting. Commission Intern will prepare a draft flyer by the next regular meeting.

**b) REVIEW HRHRC EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013 AND APPROVE FINAL EXPENDITURES;**

Staff reports that the Commission has a current balance of \$1,807.02 in the 2012/2013 budget year available to spend. Chairperson Feyer proposed to spend some amount to be used to transcribe or record the missing meeting minutes of March, April and May of 2012. Mr. Lynch claimed that the City is directing Commissions and Boards to have only action minutes.

**c) DISCUSS 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 BUDGET**

**d) DISCUSS WORK ASSIGNMENTS FOR COMMISSION INTERN**

**e) MOVING FROM DECISION TO IMPLEMENTATION: DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR CARRYING FORWARD HRHRC ACTIONS**

*Chairperson Feyer and Commissioner Jones*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K.7 RICHMOND CALIFORNIA: A HUMAN RIGHTS CITY**

**a) DISCUSS WAYS TO INCREASE RECOGNITION AT THE STATE LEVEL**

**b) DISCUSS SHOWCASING THE HRHRC AT RICHMOND CITY HALL**

*Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Chairperson Feyer*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K. 8 HRHRC SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2013: RECEIVE REPORTS ON PLANNING FOR SPECIAL EVENTS**

**FORUM ON THE ELIMINATION OF GUN VIOLENCE - August 2013**

*Commissioner Sullivan*

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS CEREMONY – December 2013**

*Commissioner Burrus-Wright*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K. 9 CONFERENCES – 2013**

**REPORT BACK ON CAHRO CONFERENCE - California Association of Human Relations Organizations - APRIL 2013**

*Chairperson Feyer, Commissioner Sullivan, and Commissioner Cummings*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K. 10 COMMITTEE REPORT: HUMAN RIGHTS ALLIANCES**  
**REPORT BACK FROM CONVENING OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE**  
*Chairperson Feyer and Commissioner Cummings*

Continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**K.11 RICHMOND PERSONNEL BOARD – EMPLOYEE AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS**  
**RECEIVE UPDATE ON CONCERNS BROUGHT TO HRHRC AND COMMISSION FOLLOW-**  
**UP, AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**  
*Chairperson Feyer and Commissioner Sullivan*  
Chairperson Feyer reported that Leslie Knight has turned in her resignation.

**SPEAKER:** Jackie Thompson shared her concerns about workplace bullies still working in the city.

Continued to June 3, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**OPEN FORUM #2**

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS:** Items that did not get discussed are continued to June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting, except Discussion item K. 11, which is moved to the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the HRHRC's regular meeting in March 2013 was adjourned at 9:50 pm, to meet again on Monday, June 3, 2013.

**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013.**  
The next regular meeting of the City of Richmond Human Rights and Human Relations Commission is scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2013.