



City of Richmond
Human Rights and
Human Relations Commission
MEETING AGENDA

Jasmine Jones, Chair
Joyce Harris, Vice Chair
Betty Burrus-Wright, PhD, Commissioner
Texanita Bluitt, Commissioner

Courtney Cummings, Commissioner
Carole Johnson, Commissioner
Crystal Johnson, Commissioner
Carolyn Wysinger, Commissioner

Monday, January 26, 2015 at 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers, Community Services Building
1st Floor, Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. AGENDA REVIEW

At the discretion of the Chair, items on the Agenda may be heard in an order different from that which appears on the Agenda.

D. MEETING PROCEDURES

Members of the public attending a Human Rights and Human Relations Commission meeting for the first time are encouraged to read the "Meeting Procedures" information following the Agenda. Anyone who wishes to address the Commission during OPEN FORUM or on a specific item must file a Speaker's Form with staff.

E. OPEN FORUM #1

Members of the public are invited to address the Commission on topics that are not on the Agenda. Please note: In order to accommodate all members of the public who wish to speak, including those who are unable to arrive early in the meeting, the Commission will hold a second OPEN FORUM at approximately 8:30 PM. Please file only one OPEN FORUM Speaker's Form with staff, indicating either "OPEN FORUM #1" or "OPEN FORUM #2".

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August, September, October and November Retreat Minutes

G. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

The City Council member serving as liaison to the Commission may make a report on City Council actions of interest to the Commission.

H. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

J. STAFF REPORTS

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Commission may take direct action, make recommendations to the City Council or provide direction to staff.

K.1 CHANGING THE AUDITORIUM RENTAL POLICY (15 MINUTES)

DISCUSS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS IT CONCERNS RENTAL OF THE AUDITORIUM

*Invited Speaker(s): Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin
Chairperson Jones*

K.2 HRHRC RESOLUTION RE RICHMOND'S POLICY AGAINST WORKPLACE HARASSMENT, AND GENERAL ORDER NO. 33 (15 MINUTES)

FOLLOW UP AND DISCUSS FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

*Invited Speaker(s): City Manager Bill Lindsay/ Human Resources Director Lisa Stephenson
Chairperson Jones*

K.3 DISRUPTIONS DURING RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (25 MINUTES)

DISCUSS AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

*Commissioner Crystal Johnson, Commissioner Wysinger, Commissioner Carole Johnson and
Commissioner Cummings*

K.4 COMMITTEE REPORT: PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (5 MINUTES)

HEAR AND DISCUSS REPORT

Chairperson Jones and Commissioner Wysinger

K.5 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (10 MINUTES)

REVIEW AND APPROVE UPDATES TO COMMITTEE'S PLANS

a. Artistically Write and Speak Aloud – February 9, 2015

b. Education Forum – September 12, 2015

Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris

K.6 PROPOSOL TO "DOWNSIZE" DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER (5 MINUTES)

HEAR UPDATE AND DISCUSS FURTHER ACTION

Commissioner Carole Johnson

L. REPORTS

None.

M. OPEN FORUM #2 (At approximately 8:30P.M.)

N. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- a. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS
- b. FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

O. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Event: Artistically Write and Speak Aloud Program (AWASAL)
Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bermuda Room.

The next regular meeting of the City of Richmond Human Rights and Human Relations Commission is scheduled for **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** in City Council Chamber.

P. MEETING PROCEDURES

Speaker Registration

Anyone who wishes to address the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission (HRHRC) on a topic that is not on the Agenda and is relevant to the Commission's purpose may speak once in either of the two OPEN FORUM sessions, but not both. Please file a Speaker Form with staff PRIOR to the announcement of that section of OPEN FORUM.

Persons wishing to speak on a particular Item on the Agenda must file a Speaker's Form with the staff PRIOR to the Commission's consideration of the Item. Once discussion on the Agenda Item begins, only those persons who have previously submitted Speaker's Forms will be permitted to speak on the Item.

Time Limits

Individual public speakers shall have a maximum of two (2) minutes to address the Commission.

If all Agenda Items are not completed by 9:30 pm, the Items remaining shall be continued to the next Regular Meeting, unless the Commission votes to extend the meeting.

Cell Phones

Please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during the meeting.

Persons with disabilities, who require auxiliary aids or services in using City facilities, services or programs, or who would like information on the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 may contact (510) 620-6509 for assistance.

K.1

CHANGING THE AUDITORIUM RENTAL POLICY (15 MINUTES)

DISCUSS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS IT CONCERNS RENTAL OF THE AUDITORIUM

Chairperson Jones

Invited Speaker(s): Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin

Attachment(s):

1.1 – Memorandum - Policy on Human Rights, Office of the Mayor

1.2 – OPED “Eritrea: Hope beyond measure...” by Nunu Kidane

**Office of the Mayor
CITY OF RICHMOND**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/13/2015
TO: Member of the City Council
FROM: Mayor McLaughlin
SUBJECT: Auditorium – Policy on Human Rights

Recommendation

In order to strengthen the City's commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as it concerns rental of the Auditorium, I recommend that the City Council adopt the following rental policy.

Policy

On November 3, 2009, the City Council of the City of Richmond adopted Resolution No. 126-09 (Resolution), adopting the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights as guiding principles" and declaring Richmond "a Human Rights City, explicitly embracing the principles of equality, inclusion, social pluralism, and the recognition of human dignity." In furtherance of the Resolution, the City Council adopts the following policy concerning Auditorium rentals in order to strengthen the City's commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In addition to the prohibition on rentals prescribed in Section 10.16.200 of the Richmond Municipal Code [Objectionable Performances], the Auditorium may not be rented for use by organizations or individuals who, or support governments or institutions that, engage in human rights abuses or violations. In order to make this determination, the facility rental application shall be revised to include an attestation that the applicant (Applicant) supports the tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is not, nor does it support, governments or institutions engaged in human rights abuses or violations. If the Parks and Recreation Department Director (Director) is presented with documentary evidence establishing that the Applicant is an organization or individual who, or supports governments or institutions that, engage in human rights abuses or violations, the Director may, at his or her sole discretion, provide the Applicant notice tentatively denying the Applicant's rental request (Tentative Denial Notice). The Tentative Denial Notice shall state the reason for the denial, contain a copy of the documentary evidence establishing human rights abuses or violations or association with governments or institutions engaged in human rights abuses or violations, identify the source of such information, including the identity of the source if from an organization or individual (Opponent) and inform the Applicant of its right to appeal the tentative denial to the Human Rights Human Relations Commission (Commission) within ten (10) days of receipt of the Tentative Denial Notice. The appeal must be made in writing and shall state the basis for the appeal. Failure to request an appeal within ten (10) days of the Tentative Denial Notice shall make the denial final. A hearing before the Commission shall be set no less than forty-five (45) days from the request for the hearing. The Applicant and Auditorium staff and/or

the Opponent may each provide evidence supporting or rebutting the tentative denial. The decision of the Commission may be appealed to the City Council by filing an appeal with the City Clerk within ten (10) days from the date of the decision of the Commission. Failure to comply with the appeal deadline acts as a waiver of all appeal rights and constitutes a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

This policy shall be effective upon adoption; provided, however, bookings within thirty (30) days of adoption shall not be subject to this policy.

Eritrea: Hope beyond measure.....

Increasingly, I find it difficult to go to Eritrean websites to read news updates or analysis. It is never good news but a litany of new disasters, more refugees fleeing of dying, imprisonment and repression. It has been that way for some time. The hint of hope interspersed in the articles that promise *the end is near* is insufficient to keep me reading. Call me a coward for burying my head in the sand, but it is all I can do not to be engulfed in the immensity of the perpetual suffering which sees little end in sight.

This does not mean however that I don't think about it incessantly. I suspect I'm not the only one. Many of us are conflicted from the desire to know and not know. It is impossible not to *let it get to you* or suffer from compassion fatigue and the frustration of not know what else to do. Burying one's head in the sand is a self-preservation strategy of sorts.

As my mind wonders back and forth from some of the stories on the current reality, I am filled with a sense of awe and respect for those who have the strength to keep telling and listening to the stories that need to be told, to keep up with the advocacy for justice. They don't seem to falter and have inexhaustible source of hope. For what it is worth, I thank them –more so because I am not sure the majority of us are doing anything else but watching from a distance and perhaps inaudibly whispering *wake me up when this is over*.

At the same time, it is impossible not to see the futility of their insistent messages which, I suspect, fall on deaf ears as far as world leaders are concerned. The daily stories of death on the Mediterranean Sea, the Sinai desert, in prisons or tortured, from forcible conscriptions and even lack of basic medical needs are meant to be a call for action. They are told with passion and insistence based on the conviction that *if only the world knew, they would do something*. And yet, the suffering continues, the telling of it perpetuates unabated as we plead to the United Nations, the US State Department, the European Union, human rights institutions, the media.

The world knew and did not act to end the gassing of six million Jews in Nazi Germany. The world knew as well of the atrocities of the Pol Pot Regime in Cambodia and the indiscriminate killing and starving of the Igbo during the Biafra War in Nigeria. No details were spared in broadcasting of the 1994 Rwandan

Genocide where nearly a million people were hacked to death. There are historic accounts of the daunting horrors we humans cause and equal measures of heroes and heroines who have held our firm belief of the goodness that perceivers in the end. We learn from past atrocities and vow each time *never again* but perpetuating similar acts of inhumanity nonetheless.

By now, I expect you are wondering what my point is. I am not advocating we close our eyes, fold our hands, turn our heads away and hope all the nightmare ends soon. Perhaps it is only to say that we need to acknowledge fully the reality and yet continue to hope beyond measure. That is what many are doing and I for one need the infusion of their spirit to keep believing there is hope. Perhaps it is a call to examine more close where we put our energy – towards pleas to the UN, US, EU and world leaders or towards our own internal strength as a people: if there is to be change, it will have to come from within our people. The calls to global institutions and leaders serve the purpose of documenting for posterity the crimes against humanity; but to expect an external force to save us from ourselves is, in my opinion is misguided and futile. In fact, it diverts our attention from leveraging our collective energy where it matters most.

You may say, for someone who does not read news and analysis on a daily basis, I have the audacity and arrogance to prescribe strategies for action (or inaction). This would not be an entirely misplaced accusation. The proposal is made not from knowing about the intricate details and realities of Eritrea or the debates from within, but from reading history and vast experience with international agencies.

Nunu Kidane is from Eritrea; she's lived and worked in the San Francisco/Bay Area for over two decades. Since graduating from U.C. Berkeley, she's worked and written extensively on Africa policy developments topics related to HIV/AIDS, debt cancellation, migration, resource extraction, land rights/human rights and racial justice. Nunu is founder and Director of Priority Africa Network (PAN) an organization that provides advocacy on Africa and working directly with diverse grassroots African communities in the Bay Area and beyond.

K.4

COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (10 MINUTES)

REVIEW AND APPROVE UPDATES TO COMMITTEE'S PLANS

- a. Artistically Write and Speak Aloud – February 9, 2015
- b. Education Forum – September 12, 2015

Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris

Attachment(s):

1.1 – AWASAL Program, February 9, 2015

1.2 – Letter from Education Committee

Artistically Write and Speak Aloud

Education Committee Presents

3rd Annual Program

Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Bermuda Room, Memorial Auditorium

Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

*Jasmine Jones, Chair
Joyce Harris, Vice Chair
Betty Burrus-Wright, PhD, Commissioner
Texanita Bluitt, Commissioner*

*Courtney Cummings, Commissioner
Carole Johnson, Commissioner
Crystal Johnson, Commissioner
Carolyn Wysinger, Commissioner*

WELCOME

Jasmine Jones

Chair, Human Rights and Human Relations Commission

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Betty Burrus-Wright

Education Committee Chair

INTRODUCTION AND SEATING OF STUDENT COUNCILS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PERFORMANCE

PRESENTATION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)

PRESENTATION BY CESAR CHAVEZ ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND UDHR BOOKLETS



THANK YOU – ADJOURNMENT





January 2015

Greeting to each of you,

I trust that reflections on the past year's engaging efforts will give evidence of your great humanitarian work for social change.

We know that Human Rights and Human Relations work is both individual as well as diversiform. Therefore, as you continue, or perhaps transfer your focus and interest in the City of Richmond, California, we are asking that you include Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's continuing work in your focus and advocacy.

Paulo Freire said, "Education is Power..." Our goal is to provide information thus educate our communities about Human Rights and Human Relations and empower them by highlighting areas of do-able responsibilities.

Therefore, we are planning a Regional Education Forum on September 09, 2015 that will include our neighboring communities and cities.

The Human Rights and Human Relations Commission of the City of Richmond needs your expertise and support in helping to frame and bring this event to a successful fruition.

We need:

1. Ideas for theme
2. Names of people for (2) breakout sessions
3. Names of keynote speakers
4. Venue suggestions (200 attendees)

Please respond to BWrighthcs@jps.net by January 30, 2015; telephone (510) 385-9663.

We would like to start a collaborative dialogue sometime in February 2015.

Dr. Betty Wright
Education Committee Chair
Human Rights and Human Relations Commission
City of Richmond, California

K.5

PROPOSAL TO "DOWNSIZE" DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER (5 MINUTES)
HEAR UPDATE AND DISCUSS FURTHER ACTION
Commissioner Carole Johnson

Attachment(s):

1.1 – Article: "Renewed hope for DMC..."

1.2 – Article: "San Pablo among investors bidding to save DMC"



Photo from Doctors Medical Center.

Renewed hope for Doctors Medical Center following proposals from private hospital groups, San Pablo

January 22, 2015 (<http://richmondstandard.com/2015/01/renewed-hope-doctors-medical-center-following-proposals-private-hospital-groups-san-pablo/>) by Mike Aldax (<http://richmondstandard.com/author/richmon/>)

1 (<http://richmondstandard.com/2015/01/renewed-hope-doctors-medical-center-following-proposals-private-hospital-groups-san-pablo/#comments>)

Recent News (<http://richmondstandard.com/category/recent-news/>)

[Encouraging news \(http://www.contracostatimes.com/bay-area-news/ci_27368169/san-pablo-among-investors-bidding-save-doctors-medical?source=rss&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter\)](http://www.contracostatimes.com/bay-area-news/ci_27368169/san-pablo-among-investors-bidding-save-doctors-medical?source=rss&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter) from the *Contra Costa Times*.

Financially crippled Doctors Medical Center, which is slated to close at the end of February, could possibly end up saved by one of three hospital groups or the city of San Pablo, each of which introduced proposals Wednesday to purchase the safety-net hospital and keep it running.

Here's the basics of three of the proposals as reported by the *Times*: (The fourth proposal was presented after the *Times'* deadline Wednesday night)

1. **City of San Pablo:** The city offered \$11 million to buy the hospital within the next 30 days along with a nearby plot of land worth more than \$7 million, where a smaller hospital may be built (West Contra Costa Healthcare District Board Chairmen Eric Zell called it the most serious proposal).
2. **Venturata Economic Development Corp.** president offered \$18 million to buy the hospital, and promises to restore full services and focus on research to attract federal and state funding.

3. **Unnamed Investor** proposes partnering with UC Berkeley and the city of Richmond to move the hospital to Richmond's southern shoreline area, where UC Berkeley is proposing to locate a research center.

Aside from these proposals, the healthcare district has been working to fulfill the 5×8 Plan, a five-year, eight-part proposal to preserve a full-service DMC. The plan is ambitious, however, as it seeks funding from various sources along with more cost cutting measures.

Some goals of the 5×8 plan have been achieved: [An infusion of \\$15 million \(http://richmondstandard.com/2014/10/richmond-council-votes-mulls-using-chevron-community-benefit-funds-help-dmc/\)](http://richmondstandard.com/2014/10/richmond-council-votes-mulls-using-chevron-community-benefit-funds-help-dmc/) was secured from the City of Richmond, although those funds are tied to the Chevron Richmond Modernization Project and won't be available until that project gets the legal green light to break ground.

Another success from the 5×8 plan includes [\\$12 million in debt forgiveness \(http://richmondstandard.com/2014/12/contra-costa-county-supes-approve-debt-waiver-plan-help-preserve-full-service-dmc/\)](http://richmondstandard.com/2014/12/contra-costa-county-supes-approve-debt-waiver-plan-help-preserve-full-service-dmc/) from Contra Costa County, which was approved last month. But the plan still faces other significant hurdles, including the need to pass a less expensive parcel tax, to procure additional contributions from hospitals in the region, and to further slash DMC's payroll and employee benefits.

In 2013, the hospital declared a fiscal emergency, and then in May of last year voters rejected a parcel tax that would have closed a \$20 million annual deficit.

The 60-year-old DMC has had financial problems for years, mainly related to servicing uninsured patients and also due to low reimbursement rates from MediCare and Medi-Cal patients.

Tags: Contra Costa Times (<http://richmondstandard.com/tag/contra-costa-times/>)

Doctors Medical Center (<http://richmondstandard.com/tag/doctors-medical-center/>)

Richmond (<http://richmondstandard.com/tag/richmond/>)

West Contra Costa County Healthcare District (<http://richmondstandard.com/tag/west-contra-costa-county-healthcare-district/>)

West County Times (<http://richmondstandard.com/tag/west-county-times/>)

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Mike Aldax (<http://richmondstandard.com/author/richmon/>)

San Pablo among investors bidding to save Doctors Medical Center

By Robert Rogers rrogers@bayareanewsgroup.com

POSTED: 01/21/2015 07:41:17 PM PST **3 COMMENTS** | UPDATED: A DAY AGO



Doctors Medical Center pharmacy technician DeeAnn Barnes, right, and National Union of Healthcare Workers representative Jan Gilbrecht walk toward the hospital after discussing the recently rejected tax to save the hospital in San Pablo, Calif., on Wednesday, May 7, 2014. (Kristopher Skinner/Bay Area News Group Archives) (Kristopher Skinner)

SAN PABLO -- Four proposals have emerged to buy Doctors Medical Center and keep it running -- three from private hospital groups and one from the city of San Pablo -- fueling hopes that services can be maintained at West Contra Costa Costa's only public hospital.

Set to run out of money by the end of February and hit with the resignation last week of its interim CEO due to health troubles, the governing board of Doctors Medical Center San Pablo heard the series of proposals at its meeting Wednesday.

West Contra Costa Healthcare District Board Chairman Eric Zell said the most serious proposal came from San Pablo, which offered the board \$11 million within the next 30 days to buy the hospital, and a nearby plot of land worth more than \$7 million on which a smaller hospital may be built. "We know the city's proposal is real, and they have the resources to be serious," Zell said.

San Pablo City Manager Matt Rodriguez said the city would lease the current hospital site to the district for \$1 per year for the next five years while helping find additional capital to build a smaller facility nearby. Other proposals that emerged late Wednesday included one from Venturata Economic Development Corp. President John Templeton said he and his partners could buy the hospital with \$18 million up front, restore full services and expand research at the hospital to draw federal and state funding. Templeton said he and his partners can avert closure and ultimately make money running a full service hospital.

Advertisement

"We have to keep the doors open in the near term to draw more private insurance patients and build the research component," Templeton said. "We have to get this car through this intersection before the light turns red."

Another proposed investor said she would work to partner with UC Berkeley and the city of Richmond to move the hospital to Richmond's southern shoreline area, which is the site of a proposed UC Berkeley campus project. A fourth proposal was not revealed by press time. Zell said the board will have to decide in mid-February whether to accept a proposal or commence closing the hospital.

Rumors surfaced last year that the adjacent San Pablo Casino, which is run by the Lytton Tribe, was in preliminary talks with DMC CEO Dawn Gideon about potentially buying the property. But those talks did not materialize into a proposal Wednesday. The casino paid \$4.6 million in June for a 20-year lease on parking spaces in the back of the hospital.

The hospital has experienced new hope recently, as Contra Costa County supervisors last month forgave \$12 million in debt owed by DMC on previous cash advances. The Richmond City Council also voted to earmark \$15 million for DMC from a Chevron community benefits package tied to a

refinery modernization, but that money won't become available until the refinery receives final permission to begin the project.

Meanwhile, the hospital, which has West Contra Costa County's only public emergency room, was forced to stop accepting ambulance traffic in August due to staffing shortfalls. The ambulance diversion has inundated private hospitals in the vicinity with patients and dramatically lengthened emergency transport times.

The downsizing has helped reduce the hospital's deficit from \$1.5 million to \$1.1 million monthly, officials said, but the hospital is still projected to run out of money and be unable to meet payroll for its 600-person workforce by March.

County health officials have said the situation will grow more dire if DMC, which still accepts emergency patients who self-transport or are brought by others, closes its 25-bed emergency room completely.

The beleaguered hospital runs deficits because it serves mostly patients on MediCal and Medicare, which provide low reimbursement rates, and uninsured patients.

Contact Robert Rogers at 510-262-2726. Follow him at [Twitter.com/sfbaynewsrogers](https://twitter.com/sfbaynewsrogers).