



City of Richmond
Human Rights and
Human Relations Commission
MEETING MINUTES

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, August 25, 2014 at 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers, Community Services Building
1st Floor, Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Jones.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chairperson Jones, Commissioner Betty Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluitt, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Carole Johnson, Commissioner Crystal Johnson, and Commissioner Wysinger

ABSENT: Vice Chair Harris

AGENDA REVIEW

Commissioner Crystal Johnson requested to add a new discussion item K.9: Tragic events taking place in Ferguson Missouri. With the discretion of Chairperson Jones, discussion item K. 9 is added to the Meeting Agenda.

OPEN FORUM #1

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was put forward by Chairperson Jones, seconded by Commissioner Bluitt, to accept the July 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. The motion is passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission. ABSENT: Vice Chair Harris.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Council Liaison Vice-Mayor Beckles was not present.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Wysinger reported about the tragic events unfolding in Ferguson, Missouri and conveyed her condolences to Michael Brown's family.

Commissioner Cummings stated that too many innocent lives are threatened and taken by violence. She offered prayers to the families who are mourning for their lost ones. Commissioner Cummings attended an event where a Polynesian dance group of Kennedy High School performed their cultural dance, which was the highlight of the event.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright has been looking to find a fiscal sponsor for the Commission. She has been in communication with Richmond PAL. The Education Committee is now working with its school partners to prepare for the upcoming annual educational program, "Artistically Write and Speaker Aloud."

Commissioner Carole Johnson participated in the Walk to End Violence initiative, one of the key programs of the Richmond Ceasefire group.

Commissioner Bluit reported that she became a writer coach for Kennedy High School. She has previously volunteered as a writer coach with middle and high school students. Commissioner Bluit also reported that she's been informing the community about the ongoing situation with Doctors Medical Center. She will be attending the upcoming DMC federal hearing on Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairperson Jones reported that there is a regional meeting of Human Rights/Human Relations Commission on September 29 by hosted the Marin County Human Rights Commission. She invited the Commissioners to attend the upcoming regional conference. Chairperson Jones also conveyed her prayers and thoughts to residents of Ferguson and victims of police violence and brutality.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins invited the Commissioners to watch "When the Game Stands Tall," a movie about the record-setting 151- game high school football winning streak by De La Salle High School and their star player from Richmond. Mr. Jenkins also reported that this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Summer. Thirdly, he indicated that the Ferguson police force lacks diversity and stressed the importance of government agencies reflecting their community demographics in their hiring processes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

K.1 DISRUPTIONS DURING RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (10 MINUTES) DISCUSS AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones framed the item and reported that the Chair of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission expressed interest in working together to address this concern.

The following members of the public requested to speak on this item:

Cordell Hindler, Rosa Parks, and Charles Ramsey condemned incidents and disruptions during Richmond City Council meetings and requested the HRHRC to further investigate this matter.

Ben Barr, Executive Director at Rainbow Center of Contra Costa County in Concord concerned with the discourse and behavior of the Council. He further expressed that he would like to be part of the ad hoc committee to work on this item.

After discussion, the following next steps were agreed upon by the HRHRC:

- Chairperson Jones has agreed to outreach to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission for a possible collaboration. And the following members of the Commission were appointed by the Chairperson to bring recommendations to the next regular meeting: |

Commissioner Crystal Johnson, Emergency Concern (Lead)

Members: Commissioner Wysinger (of Culture of Peace), Commissioner Carole Johnson (of Culture of Peace) and Commissioner Cummings (of Health Welfare).

A motion was made by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Chairperson Jones, to establish the above working group on this item and to produce specific recommendations to the HRHRC. The motion was passed by the unanimous vote of the Commission. **Ayes:**

Chairperson Jones, Commissioner Betty Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluit, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Carole Johnson, Commissioner Crystal Johnson, and Commissioner Wysinger. **Noes:** None. **ABSENT:** Vice Chair Harris.

K.2 HRHRC CALENDAR 2014 – 2015 (10 MINUTES)

PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY EVENTS AND APPROVE THE CALENDAR

Chairperson Jones, and Commissioner Burrus-Wright

Chairperson Jones requested Commissioner Burrus-Wright to frame the item.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported that the Commission is taking part in LEAP's 30th Anniversary taking place on September 21st. Commissioner Wysinger, Commissioner Cummings and Commissioner Burrus-Wright are tabling from 12:30 – 4 pm on the day of the event.

In addition, Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported that she is in communication with school administrators in regards to the Annual Artistically Write and Speak Aloud Program.

Plans for the second HRHRC Retreat is scheduled to be discussed at the September Regular Meeting.

K.3 ABOLISHMENT OF THE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (10 MINUTES)

DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Burrus-Wright

Commissioner Burrus-Wright asked the Commissioners to refer to the attached materials on the closure of the County Human Relations Commission. No further action is considered by the HRHRC.

K.4 PROPOSAL TO “DOWNSIZE” DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER (10 MINUTES)

HEAR UPDATE AND DISCUSS FURTHER ACTION

Commissioner Carole Johnson

Commissioner Carole Johnson invited the Commissioners and the public to the upcoming court hearing on DMC's closure on Wednesday, August 27 in San Francisco. Commissioners Bluit

and Carole Johnson agreed to report back about the hearing to the Commission at the September Regular Meeting.

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

Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris

Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris reported that the Education committee is currently in communication with partner schools to organize the Annual Artistically Write and Speak Aloud Program.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright also reported that her second book is being published. She is now working on her third book.

K.6 COMMITTEE REPORT: CULTURE OF PEACE (5 MINUTES)
DISCUSS AND SUGGEST ITEMS FOR OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY (ONS) TO REPORT AT THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 HRHRC MEETING

Chairperson Jones (Committee members: Commissioners Wysinger and Carole Johnson)

The Office of Neighborhood (ONS) has confirmed to attend the September Regular Meeting. The committee members reported that they are working to compile a list of questions to ask from representatives of the ONS.

Continued to September 22, 2014.

K.7 HRHRC RESOLUTIONS FROM 2013 – 2014 (5 MINUTES)
HEAR UPDATES AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON PASSED HRHRC RESOLUTIONS

Chairperson Jones

Continued to September 22, 2014.

K.8 RECRUITMENT OF HRHRC COMMISSIONERS (10 MINUTES)
DISCUSS EFFECTIVE WAYS TO RECRUIT COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Burrus-Wright

Commissioner Burrus-Wright framed the item. The Commission agreed to develop strategies to recruit members who represent the diversity of Richmond.

Continued to September 22, 2014.

K.9 TRAGIC EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN FERGUSON MISSIOURE

This items was requested to be added to the Agenda by Commissioner Crystal Johnson. She framed the item. The HRHRC condemned the police treatment of youth of color. A motion was made by Commissioner Wysinger, seconded by Commissioner Bluit, to draft letters to the Mayor Ferguson and the family of Michael Brown. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Commission. **Ayes:** Chairperson Jones, Commissioner Betty Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluit, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Carole Johnson, Commissioner Crystal Johnson, and Commissioner Wysinger. **Noes:** None. **ABSENT:** Vice Chair Harris.

L. REPORTS

None

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

Cordell Hindler presented a poem. He spoke regarding reserving a seat on the HRHRC for a youth representative(s).

N. COMMISSION BUSINESS

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS: the following items were requested to be on the next Agenda: Disruptions during Richmond City Council Meetings, Proposal to downsize "DMC," events in Ferguson.

O. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the City of Richmond Human Rights and Human Relations Commission is scheduled for **Monday, September 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** in City Council Chambers.

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting in August 2014 was adjourned at 9:45 pm in the name of Michael Brown and the victims of the Napa Earthquake.