



**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, September 22, 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 6:33 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.5: Disruptions during City Council meetings and Commissioner Burrus-Wright requested to add a new discussion item K.6: Education Committee Report: Human Rights Awards and Celebration. With the discretion of Chairperson Jones, discussion items K. 5 and K6 are added to the Meeting Agenda.

OPEN FORUM #1

The following members of the public requested to speaking during Open Forum #1:

- Vivien Feyer
- Dr. Paule Cruz Takashi

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Council Liaison Vice-Mayor Beckles was not present.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Cummings reported that the Native Indian Day will be observed on Friday, September 26, 2014.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright attended a workshop in Berkeley on Militarization of the Police with former Chair Vivien Feyer. She also reported that tabling at LEAP's Anniversary event was a success.

Commissioner Bluit reported that she is volunteering at John F. Kennedy High School with WriterCoach.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairperson Jones condemned the militarization of police forces and police response to events taken place in Ferguson. She also shared her projects at Black Organizing Project that address police and community relations.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins reported that Mr. Patrick Lynch has left the City for other employment opportunity and welcomed Ms. Debra Vaca, who will be staffing the Commission. He also invited the Commissioners to watch the documentary series on the Roosevelts.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

K.1 COMMITTEE REPORT: CULTURE OF PEACE (25 MINUTES)

HEAR REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY (ONS)

Invited Speaker: Devone Boggan, Director ONS

Chairperson Jones

Mr. Boggan shared that he's happy to update the Commission on what the ONS has been doing in the last several months. He also shared that he will be serving as the Head of the Richmond Recreation Department. Mr. Boggan took his time to introduce the ONS and its staff, different programs and strategies employed to reach their mission, and lastly, he allocated time to answer questions from the Commissioners. Mr. Boggan extensively reported on the successes of ONS' Fellowship program which is established to empower men to change their lives over a 18-month course. Furthermore, Mr. Boggan reported that ONS has received an offer to participate in a film which will cover the inner workings of the ONS and its successful programs.

After Mr. Boggan's presentation, the following members of the public spoke on this item: Cordell Hindler presented a poem by Mayo Angelou and recommended that more young people should be involved in solving community issues.

Vivien Feyer spoke in regards to the recent officer involved shooting in the community and spoke on the need for law enforcement training.

The HRHRC thanked Mr. Devone Boggan for his presentation and invited him back to report in couple of months. In addition, the HRHRC expressed its interest in furthering its current collaborations with the ONS.

K.2 COLLABORATING AND NETWORKING WITH OTHER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONS (25 MINTUES)

HEAR AND DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION

Invited Speaker: Ann Noel, CAHRO

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones invited Ms. Ann Noel to introduce and speak on this item. Ms. Noel provided the Commission with possible opportunities to get involved on the state level. And she invited the Commission to attend several upcoming events that the California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) holding on November 7th and November 20th. In addition, she shared some of the best practices of other HRCs. She recommended the HRHRC to connect with the San Francisco and Sonoma County HRCs.

K.3 HRHRC RESOLUTIONS FROM 2013 – 2014 (25 MINUTES)

HEAR UPDATES AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON PASSED HRHRC RESOLUTIONS

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones framed the item. This items is to be heard in the second HRHRC Retreat. *Continued to November 17, 2014.*

K.4 FIRST ANNUAL BAY AREA ASSEMBLY OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

DISCUSS COMMISSION'S PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Jones, Commissioner Wysinger and Commissioner Carole Johnson

The Richmond HRHRC received an invitation to participate in the First Annual Convening of the Bay Area HRCs on September 29th hosted by the Marin County Human Rights Commission. Topics will include Human Trafficking, Affirmative Action and future collaboration. The following commissioners are interested to attend: Chairperson Jones, Commissioners Carole Johnson and Wysinger. Chairperson Jones requested staff to register those Commissioners who are interested.

K.5 DISRUPTIONS DURING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Commissioner Crystal Johnson

This item was requested to be added to the Agenda by Commissioner Crystal Johnson. Commissioner Crystal Johnson reported that the committee has not met up yet but members of the group have agreed to convene in the upcoming weeks.

K.6 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris

This item was requested to be added to the Agenda by Commissioner Burrus-Wright. The Education Committee reported that its members are working on several initiatives. Upcoming events include: Human Rights Program on December 8, 2014 in the Council Chambers, Artistically Write and Speak Aloud in March 2015, Education Forum in September 2015 and Human Rights Awards and Celebration in December 2015.

K. 7 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

With the disrection of the Chaiperson, this item was added to Agenda. Chairperson Jones appointed the following Commissioners to the Nominations Committee: Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Carolyn Wysinger and Commissioner Crystal Johnson. The Nominations Committee is tasked to bring recommendations for 2015 Officers: Chair and Vice Chair.

L. REPORTS

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

Cordell Hindler presented a poem. And thanked the HRHRC for its outstanding initiatives.

Valerie Cuevas, Interim Executive Director, spoke about her 3rd Grade Literacy Program, and its unique partnership with LEAP and other educational programs in the community.

N. COMMISSION BUSINESS

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS: Proposal to “downsize” Doctors Medical Center, Disruptions during City Council Meetings, and Committee Report: Planning and Administration.

O. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission’s Regular Meeting in September 2014 was adjourned at 8:45 pm and to meet again on October 27, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the City Council Chambers.