



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, January 26, 2015 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 6:36 p.m. by Chairperson Jones.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Carole Johnson

AGENDA REVIEW

At the discretion of Chairperson Jones, discussion item K.2 moved as the first item.

OPEN FORUM #1

None.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No updates on the appointment of a new council liaison.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Cummings reported that she is deeply concerned about policing in the community, specifically recent officer involved shootings and high speed chasing in neighborhoods.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright congratulated the staff and the Chairperson for organizing the retreat in November 2014. Also she reported that a video on the AWASAL program is up on YouTube. She thanked Rita Maran and Margo Smith for their assistance in making the video.

Vice Chair Harris is looking forward to serving another year on the HRHRC. Her term was recently renewed for another 2 years.

Commissioner Bluit has recently joined a tutoring program at Kennedy High School called WriterCoach Connection. She also attended an event last Sunday where Jesse Jackson spoke. She stated that Richmond should host more well-known figures.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairperson Jones expressed her appreciation for continued support as the Chair of the Commission and is looking forward to serving another year as the Chair. She shared some of the projects and activities she is working with Black Organizing Project. Also she encouraged the Commissioners to come up with list of questions to ask from Chief Magnus when he reports to the HRHRC in the coming months.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins reported that he recently attended his college reunion at William and Clark College where he attended in a talk on how the military could help at risk-youth by Hugh Price.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At the discretion of the Chair, the following minutes are on hold for further review until the next meeting in February: August Regular Meeting 2014 and September Regular Meeting 2014.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

K.2 HRHRC RESOLUTION RE RICHMOND'S POLICY AGAINST WORKPLACE HARASSMENT, GENERAL ORDER NO. 33: A) REINSTATE A 15 DAY TIME LIMIT TO CONCLUDE INVESTIGATIONS, AND B) PROVIDE FOR NOTIFICATION TO ALL INVOLVED PARTIES FOLLOW UP AND DISCUSS FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS, WITH INPUT FROM CITY MANAGER BILL LINDSAY

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones framed the item. City Manager Bill Lindsay reported that the City has taken the recommendations of the HRHRC and in the process of writing and updating the General Order 33. He further explained that all six unions need to be informed and briefed on the updates to confirm the changes. HRHRC Commissioners shared concerns regarding timeline of investigations. Chairperson Jones requested Mr. Lindsay to keep the Commission updated on any new information regarding the General Order 33.

K.1 CHANGING THE AUDITORIUM RENTAL POLICY 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

Chairperson Jones framed the item. Councilmember McLaughlin this item was brought

to her attention by an Eritrean group several months ago. She explained that changing the auditorium rental policy would frame any organization that violates human rights from using the City's Memorial Auditorium.

Refer to the memorandum for more information on the process in which the HRHRC needs to follow if it is passed by the City Council. (Memorandum attached)

No action was taken by the Commission. Further review is required.

Continued to February 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.

K.3 DISRUPTIONS DURING RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

DISCUSS AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Commissioner Crystal Johnson framed the item. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Bluit, seconded by Commissioner Wysinger, to approve a letter asking the Mayor to include the HRHRC in a closed session of the City Council prior to its public meeting on February 3, 2015. The motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ABSENT: Commissioner Carole Johnson.

K.4 COMMITTEE REPORT: PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

HEAR AND DISCUSS REPORT

Chairperson Jones and Commissioner Wysinger

Chairperson reported that Commissioner Wysinger, Jantsan Damdinsuren and her met with Berkeley Peace and Justice Commissioner George Lippman and Julie Nelson from CAHRO to discuss the 2nd Bay Area regional meeting for human relations and human rights commissions. Chairperson Jones also reported that she is working on a workbook for new commissioners.

K.5 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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

The annual program, Artistically Write and Speak Aloud Program, will be on February 9, 2015. This year students from Cesar Chavez Elementary will present their writings on human rights. Commissioner Burrus-Wright invited members of the public and the Commissioners to attend the event to support the students.

Vice Chair Harris reported that the Regional Education Forum is going to take place on September 12, 2015. Commissioners suggested the following themes for the forum:

“Each one, teach one,” and 50 Years: Brown vs. Board of Education.

K.6 PROPOSOL TO “DOWNSIZE” DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER

HEAR UPDATE AND DISCUSS FURTHER ACTION

Commissioner Carole Johnson

Continued to February 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.

REPORTS

None.

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

Cordell Hindler presented a poem and appreciated the Education Committee for organizing a regional meeting.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- a. FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION: Name badges for Commissioners;
Upcoming Event: Artistically Write and Speak Aloud Program (AWASAL)
Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bermuda Room.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the HRHRC's regular meeting in January 2015 was adjourned at 9:27 pm, to meet again on Monday, February 23, 2015.