



**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, February 23, 2015 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 Jones.**

**ROLL CALL**

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Bluitt

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Agenda approved as presented.

**OPEN FORUM #1**

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

Cesar Zepeda spoke regarding services for persons with disability.

Joseph Jackson spoke regarding partnership between the HRHRC and the Youth Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from August 2014 and September 2014 approved by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

Absent: Commissioner Bluitt.

## **CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

No update.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Wysinger reported that she has been working with some community members to organize pride events in June.

Commissioner Cummings was recently reappointed to serve another term on the HRHRC. She attended an event by the Rainbow Community Center. She further expressed her concerns regarding high speed chase.

Commissioner Carole Johnson attended an event hosted by the Contra Costa County District Attorney where the DA claimed there is no racism in the county. She reported that there is a coalition forming to raise awareness and she is looking to invite them to the next HRHRC meeting.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairperson Jones expressed her condolences to the family of two brothers who were murdered seven hours between each other.

Chairperson Jones attended several events in the last month including the Artistically Write and Speak Aloud program hosted by the HRHRC.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Jenkins passed out the Brown Act and the Code of Ethics.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **K.1 CHANGING THE AUDITORIUM RENTAL POLICY (20 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*

Chairperson Jones invited Councilmember McLaughlin to frame the item. Nunu Kidane and Ephrem Naizum from the Eritrean community in the Bay Area attended the meeting to answer questions from the Commissioners. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wysinger, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, to adopt the policy change in principle. The motion was passed by the unanimous vote of the Commission. **ABSENT:** Commissioner Bluit.

### **K.2 SUPPORTING LGBTQ SERVICES IN RICHMOND/ RAISING RICHMOND'S MUNICIPAL EQUALITY INDEX (MEI) SCORE (15 MINUTES)**

HEAR AND DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS

*Invited Speaker(s): Wade Meyer & Roman Flintroy from RCC*

*Cesar Zepeda, Duane Chapman, Terrance Cheung from LGBT Richmond*

Commissioner Wysinger framed the item. Cesar Zepeda and Duane Chapman presented Richmond's scores on the Municipal Equality Index in 2014 and how LGBT Richmond is working to better Richmond's score for 2015.

### **K.3 DISRUPTIONS DURING RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (15 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Commissioner Crystal Johnson reported that the committee was unable to meet with the councilmembers in a closed meeting. The committee recommended that the Code of Ethics to be readopted by the Council and to be read at every Council meeting. The committee is looking to book an appointment with the Mayor in the coming weeks.

*Continued to March 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.*

**K.4 COMMITTEE REPORT: PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (10 MINUTES)**

HEAR AND DISCUSS REPORT

*Chairperson Jones and Commissioner Wysinger*

Commissioner Wysinger reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting of the Bay Area Human Rights and Human Relations Commissions is scheduled on April 11, 2015 hosted by the Richmond HRHRC. Other supporting groups include CAHRO, Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission and Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission.

**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*

Vice Chair Harris reported that the Education Committee is working on putting together a budget for the Education forum in September 2015. Approximately 150 people are expected to participate.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported on the successful turn out for the Annual Artistically Write and Speak Aloud program that took place on February 9, 2015. Over 20 students from Cesar Chavez Elementary presented their writings. Commissioner Burrus-Wright expressed her appreciation for the Mayor for attending the annual educational program.

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

HEAR UPDATE AND DISCUSS FURTHER ACTION

*Commissioner Carole Johnson*

*Continued to March 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.*

**K. 7 SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY: Saturday, March 7, 2015 (5 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS AND PLAN HRHRC'S PARTICIPATION

*Commissioner Cummings*

Sisters in Solidarity 2015 will take place on Saturday, March 7 at Nystrom Elementary School from 10 am to 3 pm. Commissioner Cummings volunteered to coordinate with Jantsan Damdinsuren, Commissioner Carole Johnson and Commissioner Wysinger to set up a table for the HRHRC.

**REPORTS**

None.

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

Cordell Hindler spoke regarding youth participation on the HRHRC and invited members to an upcoming Youth Council meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting in February 2015 was adjourned at 8:45 pm and to meet again on **Monday, March 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** in City Council Chambers.