



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, June 22, 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 6:32 p.m. by Chairperson Jones.

ROLL CALL

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

AGENDA REVIEW

At the discretion of the Chairperson, the proposed meeting agenda was approved as presented.

OPEN FORUM #1

Bharat Trehan of ACLU spoke regarding community safety and camera surveillance.
Jim Havskén spoke regarding surveillance technology advancement and the importance of transparency in the implementation process.
Phillip Menas advocated for open public debate over use of body cameras by Richmond Police Department and the need for transparency and accountability.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Burrus-Wright made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crystal Johnson, to approve the January 2015 Meeting minutes as written. The motion was passed by the unanimous vote of the Commission. **Absent**: Vice Chair Harris and Commissioner Bluitt.

Commissioner Crystal Johnson made a motion, seconded by Carole Johnson, to approve the minutes from February 2015 and March 2015. The motion was passed. **YAY:** Chairperson Jones, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Crystal Johnson, and Commissioner Carole Johnson **NAY:** None. **ABSTENTION:** Commissioner Burrus-Wright. **ABSENT:** Vice Chair Harris and Commissioner Bluit.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Councilmember Vinay Pimple was not present.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Cummings highlighted that the month of June in the city of Richmond is declared as Diversity Month in which the city celebrates the Richmond LGBTQ community, Juneteenth Festival, Native American Pow Wow Festival and the Richmond's immigrant community. Last Saturday, June 20th, there was several events took place in the city to celebrate the above mentioned communities.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright attended and tabled for the HRHRC at the Juneteenth 2015. She hoped there was more coverage of recent local and national tragic events and ongoing fights for more inclusive and just society. Commissioner Burrus-Wright attended the opening of the Family Justice Center in Richmond. The center serves as a one-stop information center for the Richmond community.

Commissioner Crystal Johnson attended a town hall on the expansion of the West County Detention Facility hosted by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office. The current proposal requests \$80 million to expand the facility. Another informational town hall is scheduled tomorrow, Tuesday, June 23 at 12 pm in the Bermuda Room.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairperson Jones expressed her condolences to the families of the Charleston shooting victims. She requested staff to draft a letter to the families of the victims and to the Mayor of Charleston. Chairperson Jones also attended the Juneteenth festival. Chair Jones and Jantsan met with Council Liaison Pimple to brief him on past and future programs and activities of the HRHRC and presented him the FY Budget for 2015/16.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins circulated a recently published report from the HAAS Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society titled *Belonging and Community Health in Richmond* written by Eli Moore, Samir Gambhir, and Phuong Tseng. He also invited the members of the Commission to read an investigative piece published by the Guardian on police involved shootings.

Jantsan Damdinsuren shared about his recent trip to Washington DC.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- K.1 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**
 - REVIEW AND APPROVE UPDATES TO COMMITTEE'S PLANS
 - a. Education Forum – September 12, 2015

Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris

Commissioner Burrus-Wright provided updates on the Regional Education Forum that is scheduled to take place on September 12, 2015. The Commission directed staff to provide more information about a venue to hold the gathering. Recommended venues include Lovanya De Jean Middle School, Richmond Memorial Auditorium, Richmond City Council Chambers, Nevin Community Center, Bermuda Room, Richmond High School, Kennedy High School, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. She also reported that Vice Chair Harris is working on securing a caterer for the upcoming regional convening.

K.2 COMMITTEE REPORT: PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (120 MINUTES)

HEAR UPDATES AND DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN

- a. Approve proposed budget for FY 2015/2016
- b. Mediation training tailored for the commission (any other trainings?)
- c. Training for commissioners to understand their role and responsibility on the commission (facilitated by the city)
- d. Developing an end of the year report and policy agenda for 2016 (listening campaign)
 - a. Questions for a listening campaign
 - b. Managing the survey
 - c. Outreach plan, completion date and what we want to see happen
- e. Discuss vision and direction for the commission in the next 6 months and strategize for building up the commission
 - a. Chair's thoughts on concentrating our focus for the next 6 months
 - b. What do we want to accomplish beside the listening campaign?
 - c. Who can participate in developing the end of the year report?
 - d. Outreach plan and outreach team (new commissioners, youth commissioners)
 - i. College students
 - ii. Active community members
 - iii. Diversity
 - iv. Succession plans

Chairperson Jones

The following members of the public spoke on this item:

Cordell Hindler recommended possible participation of the Richmond Youth Council in the HRHRC's listening campaign.

Victoria Sawicki spoke about listening circles and importance of community voice in policy making.

Chairperson Jones provided an overview of the item and presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2015 and 2016. A motion was made by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Commissioner Carole Johnson, to approve the recommended FY 2015 and 2016 budget. The motion was passed by the following vote of the Commission. **YAY:** Chairperson Jones, Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Crystal Johnson, and Commissioner Carole Johnson **NAY:** None. **ABSENT:** Vice Chair Harris and Commissioner Bluitt.

Chairperson Jones presented that she is looking for training for the members of the Commission. In the meantime, she has directed staff to register the newly joined commissioners Crystal Johnson and Carole Johnson for a 30-hour training course on Conflict and Mediation offered by the Center for Human Development (in Concord, CA).

Commissioner Burrus-Wright presented an opportunity for the commissioners to listen to Dr. Frances Welsing and Dr. Joy DeGruy in Sacramento on July 11, 2015. The following members of the Commission signed up to attend the conference: Commissioner Carole Johnson, Commissioner Cummings, and Commissioner Burrus Wright. Staff is asked to follow up with interested commissioners.

After discussion, the following actions were taken by the Commission.

A. The following committees are in effect until further action by the Commission:

1. Community Concerns and Emergency Issues Committee
2. Community and Police Relations Committee
3. Education and Outreach Committee
4. Planning and Administration Committee

B. The Office of Neighborhood is to report to the Commission on regular basis.

B. For the next six months, the Commission will focus on the following items: end of the year report, plans for the upcoming year, succession plan, launch a listening campaign, and address community concerns and emergency issues.

Chairperson Jones appointed the following commissioners to develop end of the year report: Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Cummings, and Commissioner Crystal Johnson.

Also Chairperson Jones appointed the following commissioners and community members to help develop survey questions for the listening campaign: Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Victoria Sawacki, Vivien Feyer and Chairperson Jones.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting in June 2015 was adjourned at 9:08 pm and to meet again on **Monday, July 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** in City Council Chambers.