



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

Councilmember Vinay Pimple, Council Liaison
Debra Vaca

Sr. Asst. City Attorney Everett Jenkins
Jantsan Damdinsuren

Monday, July 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers
440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond CA 94804

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission on July 27, 2015 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairperson Jones.

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. AGENDA REVIEW

At the discretion of Chairperson Jones Discussion Item K.4 is moved to be discussed immediately after K.2. Other items are adopted as presented.

D. MEETING PROCEDURES

Members of the public attending a Human Rights and Human Relations Commission meeting for the first time are encouraged to read the "Meeting Procedures" information following the Agenda. Anyone who wishes to address the Commission during OPEN FORUM or on a specific item must file a Speaker's Form with staff.

E. OPEN FORUM #1

Victoria Sawicki spoke regarding the UN Universal Periodic Review. She stated that 69 countries have responded to the US report.

Mark Wassberg spoke regarding sanctuary city policy and recent case in San Francisco.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Commissioner Crystal Johnson, to approve the Regular Meeting of the HRHRC on June 22, 2015. The motion passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

G. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Councilmember Vinay Pimple reported that the Richmond City Council is having a hearing on June 23 to vote on the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department proposal to expand the West County Detention Facility. As the Council liaison, he reported that he will echo the sentiment and decision of the HRHRC on the above issue.

H. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Carole Johnson participated in the First Annual Native American Walk for Sobriety on July 18, 2015 organized by the United Urban Warrior Society. The walk's goal is to raise awareness of issues surrounding alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

J. STAFF REPORTS

No report.

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

K.1 AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTY UNION PRESENTATION (15 MINUTES)

HEAR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS

Speakers: Phillip Menas, Jim Hausken, and Bharat Trehan

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones framed the item and welcomed speakers for the item: Phillip Menas, Jim Hausken and Bharat Trehan. Speakers took turn to talk about transparency, oversight and accountability mechanisms for surveillance technology. The Berkeley East Bay ACLU Chapter had meetings with Richmond elected officials and Police Chief Magnus. Richmond is one of the first cities that ACLU is work with; other cities include San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, and Santa Cruz. Chairperson Jones conveyed thanks to the presenters and requested ACLU to update the HRHRC on a regular basis.

The following members of the public signed up to speak on this item:
Victoria Sawicki spoke against surveillance and shared her experience.

K.2 RYSE YOUTH CENTER PRESENTATION (10 MINUTES)

HEAR PRESENTATION FROM RYSE YOUTH CENTER

Speaker(s): Brian Villa, Education and Health Coordinator

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones welcomed speakers from the RYSE Youth Center and thanked Cordell Hindler for arranging the speakers to present.

Brian Villa, Community Health Coordinator for RYSE, presented recent programs and events took place at RYSE. He spoke regarding the Alpha Beta Group which is a program to support high school LGBTQ students in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Lydia, a member of the Alpha Beta Group, shared her experience with the program and encouraged her peers to get involved in local community events to learn more about who they are. In addition, she appreciated the safe space provided at RYSE Youth Center for youth. Brian Villa further reported that the RYSE Youth Center is planning to launch a LGBTQ focused listening campaign in local high schools in partnership with Family Justice Center.

K.4 COMMITTEE REPORT: POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 MINUTES)

DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. West County Detention Facility Expansion

Chairperson Jones, Commissioner Crystal Johnson, Commissioner Carole Johnson, and Commissioner Cummings

Chairperson Jones framed the item and appointed Commissioner Crystal Johnson as the Chair of the Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC). The PCRC is meeting every third Monday evening at 6:00 pm to discuss issues concerning police and community. The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office has finalized a proposal to expand the West County Detention facility by 480 beds without consulting with Richmond officials and community groups. Commissioner Carole Johnson spoke regarding the Contra Costa County Supervisors' meeting on the issue. Commissioner Bluit raised concern around lack of funding for access to health care for community members. Commissioner Crystal Johnson spoke regarding the lack of specificity in the Sheriff's proposal around funding of reentry and mental health services. Councilmember Pimple pointed to Mayor Butt's recommendations. Chairperson Jones wrapped up the discussion with concerns and questions regarding the proposed plans to expand WCDF. The Police-Community Relations Committee will take this item back to committee and update the Commission at the next meeting.

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

Victoria Sawicki spoke regarding her concerns around expansion of WCDF and reported that the County and City of San Francisco is also in the process of applying to the SB 863 grant.

K.3 COMMITTEE REPORT: PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (25 MINUTES)

HEAR AND DISCUSS UPDATES

Chairperson Jones

Debra Vaca reported that City Manager Lindsay has confirmed the HRHRC in the fiscal year 2015-2016 will be on a project based budget. Commissioners who are planning to organize events and projects are highly recommended to turn in their budgets 2 months in advance to secure funding.

Chairperson Jones will meet with staff to relook at the budget and work on formulating survey questions in the upcoming month.

K.5 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (15 MINUTES)
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 upcoming Education Forum on September 12, 2015. Some of the themes include "Each One, Teach One," Rights of the Child, Vice Chair Harris and Commissioner Burrus-Wright are working on a budget to submit to staff. Commissioner Burrus-Wright requested Councilmember Pimple to MC the event. Speakers and presenters for the event are starting to confirm their participation. Staff is looking to secure a facility at Lovonya DeJean Middle School. More details and confirmations will be reported at the next meeting of the HRHRC.

K.6 LETTERS TO FAMILIES OF CHARLESTON SHOOTING VICTIMS (5 MINUTES)
REVIEW AND APPROVE LETTER

Chairperson Jones

Commissioners reviewed the letters and suggested edits. The Commission moved to approve the letters at the Regular Meeting in August 2015.

Continued to August 24, 2015 Meeting.

L. REPORTS

None.

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

Cordell Hindler presented a poem and shared that he is planning to invite a speaker from the Young Men's Group.

O. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting on July 27, 2015 was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. in the memory of victims of the recent shootings in Lafayette Louisiana and Charleston, South Carolina. The HRHRC will meet again on Monday, August 24, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the City Council Chambers.