



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, PhD, Commissioner

Monday, September 28, 2015 at 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers
440 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 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Jones.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Commissioner Crystal Johnson requested to move discussion item K. 1 A to October HRHRC Meeting. Commissioner Burrus-Wright requested to add an item: "Presentation by Gitil Ellis on services provided by LifeLong Medical Care" as the first discussion item. At the discretion of Chairperson Jones both requests were granted.

OPEN FORUM #1

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was put forward by Commissioner Cummings, seconded by Commissioner Carole Johnson, to accept the July 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. The motion is passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Council Liaison Councilmember Pimple was not present.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported that the Richmond Plunge is currently closed for maintenance and scheduled to open for public use in December 2015. She also invited the Commission to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 24, 2015. In addition, Commissioner Burrus-Wright participated by the Ethics Training offered by the Richmond City Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Carole Johnson reported that the Contra Costa County has verified signature collected by the California Apartment to suspend the rent control ordinance. Advocates of the ordinance are working to place the rent control on the November 2016 ballot.

Commissioner Bluit requested the HRHC to invite a representative from the Planning Commission to give report on the new construction development on 8th street and Harbour Way.

Vice Chair Harris acknowledged Pope Francis' visit to the United States. She shared concerns and history of the Catholic Church's involvement in social justice movements: poor treatment of slaves and Native Americans, and abuse of young children.

Commissioner Cummings participated in a peaceful demonstration that sought recognition of Native American culture in San Francisco. She stated the importance of understanding history the way it took place.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairperson Jones participated in the education forum "Reach One, Teach One, Save a Child" organized the HRHRC's Education Committee on September 12 at Lovonya DeJean Middle School. In addition, she also attended the Northern California HRHRC's 3rd Convening in San Jose organized by the Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations. She also reported on the progress made in the HRHRC's Police-Community Relations Commission. Chairperson Jones extended an invitation to members of the public and HRHRC Commissioners to participate in a regional gathering "Educate, Not Incarcerate" at the RYSE Youth Center at 10 am on Monday, October 5.

STAFF REPORTS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADDED ITEM: PRESENTATION ON LIFELONG MEDICAL CARE

Presenter: Gitil Ellis, Outreach Specialist at LifeLong Medical Care

Due to the closure of the Doctors Medical Center, LifeLong Medical Care is expanding its services to residents of Richmond, San Pablo and other neighboring cities. LifeLong Urgent Care is an alternative to the Emergency Room for minor illnesses and injuries. Ms. Ellis stated that urgent care centers treat medical conditions that require immediate medical attention but are not serious enough to require hospitalization and/or are not life threatening. Currently 9 emergency rooms are available. LifeLong Medical Care is located at 2023 Vale Road, San Pablo; open hours are from 10 AM – 8 PM on weekdays and 9 AM – 5 PM on weekends.

K.1 COMMITTEE REPORT: POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS (30 MINUTES)

HEAR REPORT AND APPROVE UPDATES TO COMMITTEE'S PLANS

- a. Hear Presentation from Catholic Charities on "Restorative Practices for Healing Harm in the Community" – *Presenter: Aswad Aarif*
Speaker not present. Continued to Monday, October 26, 2015.
- b. Review and finalize questions for October 26th study session with Richmond Police Department
- c. Review and approve letter to Board of State and Community Corrections re Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office SB 863 Application

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

Commissioner Crystal Johnson framed the item. The Police-Community Relations Committee is meeting on October 19th to draft and finalize questions for the scheduled study session with RPD Chief Magnus on November 16, 2016. Commissioners are welcome to submit questions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cummings, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, to approve the support letter to Board of State and Community Corrections. The motion was passed with the unanimous vote of the commission.

The following members of the public spoke on the item:

Victoria Sawicki spoke regarding police brutality, and need for mental health services for veterans.

K.2 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (10 MINUTES)

HEAR AND DISCUSS COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Education Forum: "Reach One, Teach One, Save a Child" – Saturday, September 12, *Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris*

Commissioner Burrus-Wright framed the item. The Education Committee took the lead to organize an annual education forum on the rights of the child with a theme on "Reach One, Teach One, Save a Child" on Saturday, September 12, 2015 moderated by Councilmember Vinay Pimple. Though attendance was low, invited speakers were well prepared. Presentations included human trafficking, community outreach and sex literacy. For the next annual education forum, Commissioners recommended to partner with local organizations to strengthen number of attendees.

K.3 AB 1234 ETHICS TRAINING (5 MINUTES)
RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM COMMISSIONERS
Chairperson Jones

Commissioners Burrus-Wright, Crystal Johnson, Carole Johnson, and Cummings participated in the Ethics Training provided by the City Attorney's Office. AB 1234 requires all city officials and commissioners to receive ethics training once in every two years. Online trainings are available for commissioners who did not attend the City Attorney's trainings.

K.4 3RD NORCAHRO REGIONAL CONVENING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RELATIONS ORGANIZATIONS - ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 IN SAN JOSE (5 MINUTES)
HEAR REPORT BACK
Commissioner Carole Johnson, Commissioner Cummings and Chairperson Jones

Commissioner Carole Johnson, Chairperson Jones, Victoria Sawicki and Jantsan Damdinsuren participated in the NorCal HRHRC's 3rd Convening in San Jose organized by the Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations. Keynote address by Dr. William Armaline focused on local to international efforts to advance human rights and how to effectively advocate for human rights in local jurisdictions. In spring 2016, the San Jose State University and California Association for Human Relations Organizations are partnering to host a conference on human rights. More details will be available in the beginning of 2016.

L. REPORTS

None.

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

Cordell Hindler presented a poem on youth empowerment. Mr. Hindler indicated that he would like to invite Young Men's Group of the RYSE Center for a future meeting of the HRHRC.

N. COMMISSION BUSINESS

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

- Planning Commission Presentation,
- Presentation from Catholic Charities,
- Nominating Committee,

O. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting in August 2014 was adjourned at 8:33 pm and to meet again on Monday, October 26 in the Richmond City Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza.