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9 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

10 **Thursday, January 11, 2007**

11 Council Chambers

12 Palo Alto Civic Center

13 250 Hamilton Avenue

14 6:00 PM

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17 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Blum, Lenoir, Lew, Mendoza, Savage  
18 **Council Liaison:** LaDoris Cordell **Staff:** Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Amy Johnson

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21 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

22 Mr. John Abraham handed out a report that he prepared commenting on the last quarterly statistical report from  
23 the PAPD. He explained that there is an enormous emphasis to stop African Americans.

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26 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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28 Commissioner Blum made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2006 special meeting.  
29 Seconded by Commissioner Lew. AYES: Unanimous.

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31 Commissioner Blum made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2006 meeting as  
32 corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Savage. AYES: Unanimous.

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34 Commissioner Blum made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2006 meeting as  
35 corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Savage. AYES: Unanimous.

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38 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None**

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41 **BUSINESS**

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43 **1. DISCUSSION ABOUT ADDRESSING EMERGING ISSUES OF NEIGHBORHOOD**  
44 **ASSOCIATIONS:**

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46 The commissioners discussed ideas regarding how to address issues of Neighborhood Associations.  
47 Commissioner Savage suggested that the HRC Commissioners attend neighborhood association  
48 meetings to inform them about the HRC. Commissioner Lenoir suggested that the associations be  
49 invited to attend an HRC meeting in order to discuss their issues.

50 Commissioner Blum suggested that as the HRC gets more involved in emergency preparedness, it would  
51 be nice to include the neighborhood associations.

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53 Commissioner Lenoir asked staff to invite all the neighborhood associations to attend the next meeting  
54 and for them to bring their Top-3 issues and also any suggestions they might have of how the HRC can  
55 address emergency preparedness.

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57 The commissioners discussed inviting just a few of the larger neighborhood associations such as:  
58 Greenmeadow, Duveneck, and Midtown.

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61 **2. DISCUSSION OF INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT:**

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63 Commissioner Lew began the discussion by explaining that Sheila Mandoli sent out a list to her,  
64 recommending partners for the Wisdom Sharer's video project. Commissioner Lew explained that  
65 funding this project is still a problem.

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67 Commissioner Blum explained what was intended for the Wisdom Sharer's Project. Its purpose is to  
68 match up an older person with a younger person, for the purpose of recording the dialog of their  
69 interview. Then the plan is to have the local media air the recordings in order to promote better  
70 intergenerational relations. He explained that funding this project has been a challenge from the  
71 beginning. He asked the HRC to assist and help fund the project either from personal donations or by  
72 staff using their small HRC budget.

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74 Kathy Espinoza-Howard explained that she spoke with Sheila earlier that morning and asked her for a  
75 scope of the project, in order to be able to determine if it could be funded from her budget.

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77 Councilmember Cordell suggested that the proposal also be sent to her so that she could share it with  
78 Stanford film students, who might be interested in helping with this project.

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80 It was decided to continue this discussion along with discussing the HRC's participation in the next  
81 Intergenerational Week events at the next HRC meeting in February.

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84 **3. DISCUSSION OF HRC AD HOC COMMITTEES**

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86 Commissioner Blum explained that their committee is changing directions and working on emergency  
87 preparedness. They have been working with Mayor Judy Kleinberg to identify people with special  
88 needs and connect them with a volunteer in the event of an emergency. She has recommended to the  
89 committee an organization for them to contact.

90  
91 It was discussed that the HRC has formed a Citizen's Academy Planning Task Force which has a  
92 termination date of August 2007.

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95 **4. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

96 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

97 Commissioner Mendoza announced that the CDBG has not met yet, but he has been contacted as to  
98 when they will be meeting. He also announced that he was appointed to the Taser Task Force by Mayor

99 Kleinberg.

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101 Commissioner Lew had nothing more to report.

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103 Commissioner Savage announced that she also was appointed to the Taser Task Force. No meeting has  
104 been scheduled yet.

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106 Commissioner Blum reported that he wrote an article in the Palo Alto Weekly regarding the financial  
107 stress associated with the poor.

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109 Commissioner Lenoir reported that she met with the Youth Council and they are working on areas of  
110 stress for teens. Also, she reported that she attended the grand opening of the Mitchell Park Teen  
111 Center. She thanked city staff person, Kim Parker for all her hard work and effort. Commissioner  
112 Lenoir reported that the site has been a very good collaboration between Youth Community Services,  
113 YMCA and PAUSD.

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115 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**

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117 Commissioner Savage reported that she met with her council buddy LaDoris Cordell, and they discussed  
118 a lot of different things, it was great.

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120 Commissioner Lenoir asked everyone to make sure to schedule a time to meet with their council buddies  
121 before the next meeting.

122

123 Commissioner Blum thanked Councilmember Cordell for helping the HRC during the past year. She  
124 commented that she may be appointed as the HRC Liaison again.

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126 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

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128 Councilmember Cordell said that she was delighted that three commissioners will serve on the Taser  
129 Task Force. She hopes that they will be objective and she also said that the City Council may rely  
130 heavily on their input.

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132 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

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134 Kathy Espinoza-Howard reported that City Staff has seen an increase in the volume of emails regarding  
135 a growing homeless population in Palo Alto. She reported that an official survey will be done by Santa  
136 Clara County to determine data on homelessness. Kathy reported that she has been working with Heiri  
137 Schuppisser from Alliance for Community Care to personally survey the number of homeless people on  
138 University Avenue. She explained that she wants to collect factual data. She spoke about the effect of  
139 the current cold spell on the current population. She also reported that Clara Mateo is under surveillance  
140 by the County Health Department because of a large number of flu illnesses. They are not yet under  
141 quarantine, but the county has placed certain restrictions on them. She also reported that the police  
142 officers will be helping by observing unhoused people and taking them to various warming shelters  
143 because of the abnormal cold conditions. She also reported that Palo Alto will be a site for a pilot Food  
144 Stamps Program designed to expedite the application process. The Opportunity Center will be the site  
145 for this pilot program. Currently, the normal application process takes up to 6 weeks. The new pilot  
146 program is supposed to take only 3 days. County staff is undergoing training of this new program,  
147 which should begin in the middle of February.

148 The commissioners asked questions about certain homeless needs. She reported that she was able to  
149 house 5 people temporarily during this cold spell. Also, she reported that bus passes are available to  
150 agencies to distribute as needed.

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152 Kathy Espinoza-Howard stated that she wanted to go on record and verify that the HRC has not taken a  
153 position on the use of tasers. The commissioners agreed.

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156 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

157 Council member Cordell announced that she will be speaking at the Twentieth Annual Community and  
158 Interfaith Celebration honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the First United Methodist  
159 Church on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. She also reported that she and Councilmember Drekmeier sent a  
160 Colleague Memo requesting the renaming of a street in Palo Alto in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King,  
161 Jr. It will be up for discussion on a future City Council agenda.

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164 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

165 Staff to ask Director of Opportunity Center to give a report  
166 Update on BMR when there is new information available.  
167 Funding for Wisdom Sharer's Project and Upcoming Intergenerational Event  
168 Neighborhood Association Issues  
169 Quarterly Demographic Data from PAPD

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172 **ADJOURNMENT**

173 The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.