

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

10 **Thursday, June 14, 2007**

11 Council Conference Room

12 Palo Alto Civic Center

13 250 Hamilton Avenue

14 6:00 PM

15
16
17 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Blum, Lenoir, Mendoza, Savage, Mora **Council Liaison:**
18 LaDoris Cordell **Staff:** Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Amy Johnson

19
20
21 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (read letter)**

22 Mr. Abraham spoke about studies that have been done regarding racial profiling at night. He
23 recommended a website that he researched (www.johnlamberth.com) in which he argues that police
24 make stops when they see violations. Is the population at night different from a random sampling? The
25 critical issue is that they discovered problems with equipment violations that occur at night vs. during
26 the daytime. There is a disparity for African American drivers which Lamberth pointed out. Given the
27 data, he is left to assume that there is profiling going on. Even if everything is fine, African Americans
28 are still being over-stopped.

29
30 Mr. Joe Webb, a resident of Woodside handed out a report titled: "The Hispanic Report." He said that
31 hate crimes in Menlo Park are caused by mostly Hispanics and the he has been personally attacked by
32 Hispanics and Jews.

33
34 Mr. Kerber, a resident of Palo Alto spoke about his concern of the planning department's review of the
35 BMR program. He stated that he was wondering if the HRC is following up on it. He explained that he
36 read the survey results again, and noticed several things that bothered him. The survey revealed that
37 there is a high population of seniors, and that many units are inaccessible to disabled residents, which is
38 not a good combination. Also, that a large number of BMR owners fall into the low or very low income
39 demographic and if the appreciation rate is not adequate enough residents will still be stuck with their
40 units because they will not be able to afford to move.

41
42 Ms. Soyevn Choi, of the Palo Alto Area Bar Association asked to be added to the agenda for the next
43 meeting, to discuss the upcoming Community Law Night.

44
45 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

46
47 Commissioner Blum made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2007 meeting as corrected.
48 Seconded by Commissioner Mora. AYES: Unanimous

49 Commissioner Blum made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2007 special meeting as
50 corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Lenoir. AYES: Unanimous

51
52

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

54
55

56 **BUSINESS**

57

58 **1. FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION REGARDING YOUTH ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

59 Commissioner Blum explained that at a prior meeting of the HRC, the HRC discussed having a liaison
60 position for a youth member. The issues that need to be discussed further involved how to do the
61 recruiting and how to get it started.

62

63 Commissioner Mora suggested that the HRC develop a plan before going to the Parks and Recreation
64 Commission.

65

66 There was a brief discussion that the HRC needs to determine the details such as building interest, and
67 term.

68

69 Commissioner Lenoir recommended that the school board has a youth liaison, and to use that role as a
70 template for determining how the HRC develops its youth liaison role.

71

72 Commissioner Mora said that there is an event in Washington DC regarding how to get youth involved
73 in government.

74

75 The HRC discussed some other suggestions, such as:

- 76 • Giving them volunteer hours for school credit.
- 77 • What responsibilities would they have?

78

79 **2. FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION REGARDING CADRE CONFERENCE:**

80

81 Commissioner Lenoir said that she and Commissioner Savage attended the CADRE Conference and that
82 they received a CD with the contact information of those who attended. The conference was for disaster
83 preparedness for Non- Profit Agencies. Commissioner Lenoir suggested that the HRC follow up with
84 the attendees to find out if the conference was helpful, and to inquire about the status of their plan, if
85 they have one, or if they need help to develop one.

86

87 There was a brief discussion about having a lunch-time meeting, inviting the attendees and the staff
88 from the Office of Emergency Services.

89

90

91 **3. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSAL BY THE HRC THAT THE CITY COUNCIL**
92 **ADOPT STEPS FOR FOSTERING VOLUNTEERISM IN THE CITY.**

93

94 Commissioner Blum commented that everyone should have received the revised draft proposal in their
95 packets. He asked for Kathy Espinoza-Howard to share the documentation she provided regarding
96 parliamentary procedures. She referred to page 6 and said that she thought it might be helpful.

97

98 Commissioner Blum said that he was concerned about what would happen with it, if it were sent to City
99 Council as is.

100
101 There was a brief discussion about ground rules and communication agreements.

- 102 • Put a statement on the cards for people requesting to speak, so that they see it.
- 103 • Create opportunities to acknowledge volunteers. Asking the commissions to recommend
- 104 volunteers for staff to recognize.
- 105 • Generate a letter to the other commissions asking for them to consider a way to acknowledge
- 106 volunteers.
- 107 • Each Commissioner to set a task to talk to his or her buddy about encouraging volunteerism
- 108 by acknowledging a Board or Commission at the beginning of every meeting.

109
110 **Commissioner Mora made a motion that an additional statement be added to the comment cards**
111 **for the HRC. The statement will be drafted by Commissioner Mora and Commissioner Blum and**
112 **placed on the comment cards, and made available by the July meeting. Seconded by**
113 **Commissioner Lenoir, AYES: Unanimous.**

114
115

116 **4. DISCUSSION TO PLAN HRC RETREAT:**

117

118 The commissioners discussed possible dates of the retreat (Sept. 8th or Sept. 15th) as well as agenda
119 items such as: New Goals and Priorities, Successes and Challenges, and who would be asked to
120 facilitate. Kathy Espinoza-Howard agreed to ask Eve Agiewich, past HRC Commissioner and Emeritus
121 Mediator of the Palo Alto Mediation Program.

122

123 Commissioner Lenoir agreed to plan and delegate potluck food items.

124

125

126 **5. UPDATE OF HRC BROCHURE:**

127

128 Commissioner Savage said that she would like to edit the brochure and bring a new copy for review at
129 the next meeting.

130

131

132 **6. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

133

134 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

135

136 Commissioner Mendoza had nothing to report.

137

138 Commissioner Savage reported that she met with Chief Johnson and went on a police ride-a-long with
139 Sgt. Natasha Powers from 6pm to Midnight. She said that she thought it was an amazing experience.
140 She also reported that she attended the CADRE Conference as discussed by Commissioner Lenoir.

141

142 Commissioner Blum had nothing to report.

143

144 Commissioner Mora reported that she attended the “Green at Home” presentation which discussed how
145 to lower our carbon footprint and the Downtown Giving Inside not Outside event.

146

147 Commissioner Lenoir reported that she attended the CADRE Conference, and said that it has been
148 difficult to do follow up. She also reported that she attended a meeting of the Police Department as a
149 member of a focus group which discussed the Police Department's Strategic Plan. She also reported
150 that she attended a walk-ability assessment to determine how walkable is Palo Alto. The committee is
151 planning to have an event.

152
153 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**

154
155 None

156
157 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

158
159 None

160
161 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

162
163 Kathy Espinoza-Howard reported that both the Resolution re: Immigration and recommendation for the
164 Palo Alto Mediation Program's contract is scheduled for the Policy and Services agenda on July 10,
165 2007.

166
167
168 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

169
170 None

171
172
173 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

174
175 Discussion with Police Auditors
176 Promoting volunteerism
177 Youth on Boards and Commissions
178 CADRE follow up.
179 Palo Alto Bar Association - Community Law Night
180 Conversations around Community Conflict
181 Discussion with Palo Alto Government Effectiveness (PAGE)

182
183
184 **ADJOURNMENT**

185 The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.