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12 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**
13 **Special Meeting**

14 Saturday, September 15, 2007
15 Lucie Stern Community Center, Fireside Room
16 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto
17 8:30am
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20 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Atito, Blum, Khan, Mora, Savage
21 **Staff:** Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Amy Johnson
22 Facilitated by Eve Agiewich.
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25 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

26 Elliott Margolies, a Palo Alto resident asked for the HRC to co-sponsor "Not in Our
27 Town" community event.
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30 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None**
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33 **BUSINESS**
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36 **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

37 Ms. Eve Agiewich, a Palo Alto resident and past member of the HRC for many
38 years, introduced herself to the commissioners. She led the commissioners in
39 an ice breaker discussion.
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42 **2. DISCUSSION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

43 The commissioners discussed how the dynamics of the commission change with
44 the changing of new members and what makes the HRC effective:

- 45 • Having a common goal

- 46 • Respect and Support for one another
- 47 • Doing your homework, coming to meetings prepared
- 48 • Understanding roles
- 49 • Listening to the public/commissioners
- 50 • Strive for consensus or delegate the work.
- 51 • Engage the Public
- 52 • Being an advocate, publicize work of the HRC

54 **3. REVIEW OF PAST YEAR:**

56 The commissioners discussed past years challenges:

- 57 • Lack of regular committee meetings
- 58 • Unrealistic expectations
- 59 • Not always feeling supported
- 60 • concerns about most effective ways to respond to conflicts and
- 61 disputes within the community
- 62 • Public not aware of the work of the HRC.
- 63 • Some do not appreciate HRC's concern for global or national issues
- 64 • Commissioners are often overcommitted.

66 The commissioners discussed ways to be more effective and efficient:

- 67 • Write an article on the HRC's function and work
- 68 • Clear expectations from meetings and from commissioners
- 69 • Get draft minutes out within one week of the meeting.
- 70 • All Commissioners reading the minutes and packets before the
- 71 monthly meeting
- 72 • Commissioners submitting edits to draft minutes 7 days prior to next
- 73 meeting
- 74 • Staff to email out action items within one week of the meeting
- 75 • Be aware of what is going on in the community, locally, nationally,
- 76 internationally
- 77 • Continue to check on broken links to agendas/minutes etc on City
- 78 website

80 The commissioners discussed constraints to working effectively together:

- 81 • Communication within the Brown Act
- 82 • Time
- 83 • Sometimes lack of clarity on purpose of agenda items and how to
- 84 address
- 85 • Prioritizing goals
- 86 • Lack of Resources
- 87 • Length of Meetings
- 88 • Number of Agenda Items
- 89 • Time of Meetings

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- Style of Chairs
- Code of Conduct

The commissioner discussed specific constraints regarding communication:

- Communicating outside of meetings
 - One on one communications and emails
- Buddy System- Not all Council members want to participate
- When speaking in public or at Council/Committee Meetings, need to clearly state if representing HRC or yourself. Balance your role.
- Press- Declare who you are speaking on behalf of.
- Prepare before speaking to the media. Identify when you want to speak to media.
- Press- Refer to commissioner with expertise
- When preparing articles for paper, have them reviewed by commissioners/chair if it is about the HRC.

The commissioners discussed accomplishments:

- Resolutions send a message to the community raising awareness.
 - Voter Confidence Resolution
 - Immigration Resolution
- Commissioners worked on various partnerships:
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Taser Task Force
 - Racial Profiling with Police Dept
 - Camera's on patrol cars
 - Meeting with Police Auditor
- Update accomplishments on website along with yearly goals.
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4. Palo Alto Mediation Program Funding and Scope of Work

Commissioner's Mora and Blum mentioned they met with members of the Palo Alto Mediation Program to discuss ways the HRC can partner with PAMP to encourage community building.

Kathy Espinoza-Howard asked for the commissioners to restate the HRC's previous motion for clarity regarding the Palo Alto Mediation Program.

Commissioner Atito made a motion that the Palo Alto Mediation Program be removed from HSRAP along with its current funding and be funded instead through a contract with the City. Seconded by Commissioner Blum, AYES: Unanimous.

A draft document titled "A New Dispute Resolution Process For Complex Community Issues in Palo Alto" was distributed and discussed. The

135 commissioners discussed including Community Disputes in the PAMP scope
136 of work.

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139 **5. Establish next year's priorities:**

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The commissioners discussed next year's priorities:

- 142 • Diversity and Equity (Blum)
- 143 • Affordable Housing (Atito, Khan)
- 144 • Community Building
 - 145 ○ (1 vote) Homelessness/unhoused
 - 146 ○ (1 vote) Neighborhood Associations (Khan)
 - 147 ○ (3 votes) Conflict Resolution (Mora, Blum)
 - 148 ○ (3 votes) Youth Involvement (Atito, Khan, Blum)
 - 149 ○ (2 votes) Intergenerational Connections
 - 150 ○ (5 votes) Police and Community Relations (Atito, Savage, Mora)

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153 **REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

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Commissioner Mora reported that she and Commissioner Atito attended the Policy
156 and Services meeting. The HRC was requested to make revisions to the
157 Immigration resolution. She asked that a revised resolution be discussed at the
158 next meeting. She also reported that Commissioner Lenoir resigned because she
159 had moved out of Palo Alto and was no longer eligible to serve on the Commission.
160 Commissioner Mora also reported that she met with Project Sentinel to discuss
161 increasing PAMP's scope of work to include community conflicts.

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Commissioner Atito reported that he attended the Policy and Services meeting
164 because they were discussing the Below Market Rate Housing Program. He said
165 that the HRC's recommendations to staff did not appear to be included in the
166 recommendations made from staff to the committee.

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Commissioner Blum reported that he wrote an article in the weekly regarding
169 health insurance for children.

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Commissioner Savage had nothing to report.

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Commissioner Khan had nothing to report.

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176 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 177 Discussion to Co-sponsor "Not in Our Town" community event
- 178 Discussion of Code of Conduct
- 179 Election of Officers
- 180 Meeting with PAGE and Palo Alto Mediation Program

181 Immigration Resolution

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184 **ADJOURNMENT**

185 The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm