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13 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**
14 **Thursday, February 14, 2008**
15 Council Conference Room
16 Palo Alto Civic Center
17 250 Hamilton Avenue
18 7:00 PM
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22 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Atito, Bacchetti, Blum, Mora, Savage
23 **Staff:** Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Amy Johnson
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26 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**
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28 Mr. John Abraham, a Palo Alto resident discussed traffic stops by Palo Alto Police Department. He
29 provided a summary of all stops based on the reports from 2005 and 2006. He said that this is relevant
30 information that has not been emphasized very much. He discussed the breakdown of stops by race.
31 His main point was that African Americans get stopped more than other races.
32

33 Mr. Martin Eichner, a Palo Alto resident and Director of Dispute Resolution Programs for Project
34 Sentinel addressed the commissioners. He mentioned that he prepared a report of the Mandatory
35 Response Program which was provided to the commissioners in their packets. He asked for an
36 opportunity to come back and present the reports, and vote about making a modification to the ordinance
37 in order to obtain landlord compliance.
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40 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
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42 Commissioner Savage made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the November 8, 2007
43 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Blum. AYES: 4, NAYS: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 1.
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45 Commissioner Mora made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the December 13, 2007
46 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Savage. AYES: 4, NAYS 0, ABSTENTIONS: 1.
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49 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

50 Commissioner Blum requested to move item #5 to be item #2.

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53 **BUSINESS**

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56 **1. REPORT FROM PALO ALTO MEDIATION PROGRAM (PAMP) AND PALO ALTA'S**
57 **FOR GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS (PAGE) REGARDING STATUS OF TOWN**
58 **HALL MEETINGS.**

59 Commissioner Mora reported that she emailed representatives of both groups. Both PAMP and
60 PAGE have been working on community initiatives. PAMP will be facilitating two upcoming
61 community meetings in Palo Alto; an event for Not In Our Town: Silicon Valley, and the first
62 meeting of Community Environmental Partnership (CEAP.) While PAGE and PAMP look forward
63 to collaborating on community building efforts, they have not yet been able to meet to discuss a
64 plan.

65
66 Commissioner Bacchetti reported that PAGE has been occupied since the October HRC meeting
67 with its work as part of the coalition that proposed *Civic Engagement for the Common Good* as one
68 of the City Council's 2008 priorities. Because *Civic Engagement* was adopted by Council at its
69 January 12, 2008 priority-setting meeting, the context for what PAMP and PAGE might consider
70 needs to wait until the Council and staff have developed benchmarks for that priority. [Note: those
71 benchmarks were set at the City Council's meeting of April 7, 2008].

72
73 Mr. Eichner said that he understood that PAMP will discuss with PAGE what the PAMP's role is,
74 after PAGE has had a chance to process the City Council's decision to adopt civic engagement for
75 the common good as one of council's priorities.

76
77 Ms. Espinoza-Howard said that she attended a meeting earlier today and that there are a number of
78 initiatives that are being worked on. She said that staff is discussing different approaches of how to
79 build civic engagement efforts in the community. A task force is being formed.

80
81 Mr. Eichner explained that PAMP is very interested in assisting with the effort. They have already
82 begun to train mediators to make sure that they have the necessary skills needed for the task. He
83 also spoke about the involvement of PAMP at the Community Environment Action Partnership
84 (CEAP) event on March 5th.

85
86 Ms. Espinoza-Howard advised Mr. Eichner that the Opportunity Center (OC) is having conflict
87 resolution problems among their tenants and that she suggested to OC staff that they ask for
88 assistance from PAMP in providing mediation. Mr. Eichner responded that he was aware of the
89 issue, and has been asked to help out with one particular case.

90
91 There was a brief discussion about efforts made in the past to use the PAMP in more roles within
92 Palo Alto, but that the HRC has run into obstacles.

93
94 Mr. Eichner spoke about various approaches they currently use.

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97 **2. DISCUSSION ABOUT CREATING HRC AWARD.**

98 Commissioner Blum summarized what the task force has discussed a few years ago when the idea
99 was first discussed by the HRC for having a HRC awards and a dinner ceremony. He agreed that

100 much work needs to be done to accomplish such a large task. He wanted to bring up the idea again,
101 to see if any of the HRC Commissioners were interested in pursuing the idea further.

102
103 Commissioner Savage suggested that Commissioner Blum speak with the Chamber of Commerce
104 because they have a similar event and it is a huge undertaking.

105
106 Commissioner Mora reminded everyone that one of the original concerns was that the HRC did not
107 want to replicate what others are doing.

108
109 Commissioner Blum mentioned that Commissioner Khan expressed an interest in working on this.

110
111 Commissioner Atito suggested the idea of recognizing people at the beginning of City Council
112 meetings.

113
114 There was a brief discussion about the purpose of the award.

115
116 Commissioner Bacchetti suggested that this idea could be modified to fit in with the City Council's
117 priority of civic engagement. This may be a good time to develop this idea.

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119 Commissioner Mora agreed that since she is on the Civic Engagement Task Force, she would try to
120 present the idea.

121
122
123 **3. FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION ON POLICE FORUM.**

124 Commissioner Savage reported that no date has been set for this event and that it has been put on
125 hold for now and is still in the planning stages.

126
127 Commissioner Blum suggested that since the PAPD is participating in the "Not in our Town" Event
128 in March, it might be a good opportunity to ask for public participation in the police forum.

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131 **4. DISCUSSION TO APPOINT COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL BUDDY ASSIGNMENTS.**

132 Commissioner Atito asked to defer this discussion to the next meeting because of absent
133 commissioners.

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136 **5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

137 Commissioner Blum reported that he and Commissioners Atito and Khan met to discuss youth
138 involvement and also criteria on resolutions. He said that he will provide more details at the next
139 meeting.

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142 **6. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS**

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144 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

145 Commissioner Blum reported on the Ethics Training that all the commissioners were required to
146 take. He spoke about what the instructor taught regarding requirements for standing meetings. It
147 was different from what the HRC had been told in the past. Ms. Espinoza-Howard said that she will
148 have an informal discussion with City Attorney to clarify the information. Commissioner Blum

149 asked that she also confer with the speaker of the training class.

150

151 Commissioner Mora reported that last week she facilitated a legislative forum for San Mateo County
152 convening representatives from the County, Cities, School Districts and area non-profits to address
153 the Governors proposed budget cuts.

154

155 Commissioner Savage reported that she and Commissioner Khan took a tour of the Opportunity
156 Center with Ms. Espinoza-Howard. She said that it was good to see the center now that it is
157 occupied and that it was a moving experience.

158

159 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**

160 None

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162 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

163 None

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165 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

166 Ms. Espinoza-Howard distributed the Human Relations Brochure updated with Commissioner
167 Bacchetti's information. She also announced the Tour de California Bike Race this weekend in Palo
168 Alto. She also announced a memorial service for Children's Theater staff person, Michael Litfin,
169 this Sunday at Children's Theater.

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172 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

173 None

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176 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

177 Report On Mandatory Response Program and Consideration of Possible Amendment to Mandatory

178 Response Program Ordinance

179 Community Engagement Update

180 Committee and Council Buddy Assignments

181 Considerations for HRC Resolutions

182 City Council Joint Meeting Debriefing

183 Review of 2nd year HSRAP Allocations

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186 **ADJOURNMENT**

187 The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.