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11 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

12 **Thursday, December 10, 2009**

13 Council Conference Room

14 Palo Alto Civic Center

15 250 Hamilton Avenue

16 6:30 PM  
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19

20 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Bacchetti, Bernardo, Ezran, Hamilton, Khan, Mora, Savage  
21 **Staff:** Greg Hermann, Amy Johnson, Linda Larson  
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24 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

25 Mr. John Abraham, a Palo Alto resident commented that the Police Department demographic data is  
26 now online for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters. He handed out a spreadsheet that he created after looking at the  
27 data. He said he was advocating that the spreadsheet data be released too. He also recommended that  
28 data be sent to someone like Greg Ridgeway. He summarized the information on the spreadsheet he  
29 handed out. For African Americans there is a different trend; the numbers increase in the afternoon for  
30 number of stops. The other racial groups do not have this kind of pattern. He also commented that for  
31 every racial group, women had a higher number of moving stops than men. Also, African Americans  
32 are stopped at a ratio of 7 to 1.  
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35 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

36 Commissioner Bacchetti made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the October 8, 2009  
37 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ezran. AYES: unanimous.  
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39 Commissioner Ezran made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2009 meeting,  
40 seconded by Commissioner Bacchetti. AYES: unanimous.  
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43 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

44 None  
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47 **BUSINESS**

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49 **1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED HRC PROJECTS:**

50 Discussion dealt with the two priorities the HRC had set for the coming year:

51  
52 Priority 1: Working proactively on our own and collaboratively with others, build Palo Alto's  
53 commitments to embracing diversity, disabling intolerance and promoting inclusion.

54 Priority 2: Work with the Police Department to enhance effective, fair and impartial policing.  
55

56 Commissioner Bacchetti explained that in his December 2<sup>nd</sup> email, he approached the list as a product  
57 for everyone. He summarized four points from that email. 1. The priorities should be proactively  
58 framed. 2. The actions must make realistic claims on commissioner's time and the time of others. 3.  
59 An outreach plan to recruit and involve others should be created. 4. The larger strategy as well as the  
60 tactics that will implement it should be considered.

61  
62 Regarding priority 1, he noted that the HRC should identify the topics it wished to emphasize, e.g., race  
63 and ethnicity, national origins, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, etc. Then the HRC  
64 should consider approaches to how the community looks, functions, and feels from different  
65 perspectives. Such approaches could include focus groups, interviews, workshops, surveys, and other  
66 means. The City Auditors annual Service Efforts and Accomplishments Report could provide data  
67 annually on results. Commissioner Bacchetti also suggested a need for a strategy for monitoring hate  
68 crimes and how the HRC might address these concerns.

69  
70 Priority 2 was agreed to be an extension of priority 1, especially with the initiatives that Chief Burns has  
71 under consideration and underway, such as the Citizens Advisory Group.

72  
73 Commissioner Savage pointed out that she has been working with Police Department on various  
74 community activities. She also discussed her goal to address recent teen suicides that will involve the  
75 HRC as a cosponsor in upcoming community events.

76  
77 Commissioner Mora reminded the commissioners that former Commissioner Blum had developed HRC  
78 Protocols for Responding to Hate Crimes. She suggested staff forward the Protocols to the  
79 Commissioners.

80  
81 Mr. Hermann made the suggestion that action items need to be determined in light of the upcoming  
82 meeting with the City Council. The priorities are very broad and will encompass many projects. He  
83 also discussed that he met with CSD Managers and discussed the HRC priorities. Mr. Hermann outlined  
84 a number of potential initiatives the HRC could consider, including working on issues of Universal  
85 Access. He mentioned working on a Universal Access Playground, and greater accessibility at the  
86 Junior Museum, the Zoo and Art Center.

87  
88 Commissioner Bernardo reminded everyone that she volunteered to help Commissioners Khan and  
89 Ezran with the Civic Engagement Award.

90  
91 Commissioner Ezran recommended that every project have a champion to lead it. Everyone was asked  
92 to think about which projects they might want to be the champion for.

93  
94 Commissioner Mora noticed there might be overlap with the Parks & Recreation Commission and  
95 suggested if the HRC was to take on an initiative involving City parks, there should be collaboration  
96 with the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Hermann, said that there would probably be overlap, but  
97 believes the HRC could play a significant role.  
98

99 Commissioner Khan said that she would like to participate in the Magical Bridge Exhibit at Junior  
100 Museum even after her term ends, as a private citizen. Mr. Hermann said that he would pass that  
101 information along.  
102

## 103 **2. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD:**

104 Commissioner Khan apologized for not being able to discuss this item last month and that she would  
105 like closure on this today. She has a verbal commitment for free add space to run media in January.  
106 She had done some preliminary research and there is interest in this award. She also secured web and  
107 graphic design assistance. She explained that tonight she is seeking approval to have the award or not,  
108 and to form an Ad Hoc group. She reported that it is her plan that people will have web access to post  
109 the nominations and that the winner would be announced in the spring.  
110

111 She is looking for brainstorming ideas around selection criteria such as: characteristics of nomination,  
112 criteria, volunteer basis activities, people who want to nominate themselves must also include a letter of  
113 reference.  
114

115 Commissioner Bacchetti asked if non-profits are included. There was a brief discussion that only one  
116 award for individuals would be a good start for this award.  
117

118 Commissioner Hamilton asked for Commissioner Khan to explain more about self nominations. The  
119 commissioners had a brief discussion and decided it would be okay to self nominate.  
120

121 Commissioner Savage commented that she liked the title of the award as is.  
122

123 Commissioner Khan discussed that she planned to have the process complete before the end of her term  
124 in March.  
125

126 The Ad Hoc committee would consist of Commissioners Khan, Ezran and Bernardo.  
127

128 Commissioner Bacchetti suggested that someone from the Tall Tree nomination committee should be on  
129 the Civic Engagement Award nominations committee.  
130

131 Commissioner Khan mentioned that she would try to get someone from Avenidas, Tall Tree and/or  
132 Chamber of Commerce to be on the committee.  
133

134 Commissioner Mora suggested that they be an advisory component only.  
135

136 Commissioner Khan was asked to discuss the difference between this award and the Tall Tree Award.  
137 She explained that biggest difference is that previous winners make up the nominations committee. The  
138 HRC award will not be like that.  
139

140 Commissioner Bernardo requested that the announcement include something about where the award will  
141 be presented and if the plan was still to present it at the "State of the City" address.  
142

143 Commissioner Olana asked that the commissioners email staff any suggestions for the web domain  
144 name.  
145

146 **Commissioner Mora made a motion that the HRC have a Civic Engagement Award in 2010,**  
147 **Seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, AYES: Unanimous.**

148 **3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

149 Commissioner Hamilton reported that he and Commissioner Bacchetti is meeting next week with Pat  
150 Brown the former Executive Director of PCRC. Commissioner Mora commented that Project Sentinel  
151 and PCRC have been meeting on this issue with the City Managers Office since last year.

152  
153 Mr. Hermann commented that he will give a report of what the City Manager Office is working on in  
154 this regard at next months meeting.

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157 **4. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

158 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

159 Commissioner Bacchetti reported on the December 8th meeting of the Citizen’s Advisory Group.  
160 Captain Beacom presided due to a prior commitment on the part of Chief Burns. The agenda focused on  
161 what the department does, its various functions, and the authorities from which its roles and  
162 responsibilities derive. They had a tour of the Police Dept and where the divisions are housed. They  
163 also discussed various items such as: authority and limitations; the kinds of offenses officers deal with;  
164 the role of the DA and judges, and police actions. At the end of the meeting, members of the Group  
165 were asked to email issues, topics, and questions they would like to see addressed at subsequent  
166 meetings.

167  
168 Commissioner Mora reported that she was asked to attend the meeting as she may be facilitating future  
169 Citizen’s Advisory Group Meetings. She stated Commissioner Bacchetti is the Liaison from the HRC  
170 and will be reporting back to the HRC about the meetings.

171  
172  
173 Commissioner Ezran reported on the progress they have made in keeping World Music Day as a  
174 continuing event. He reported that he met with city staff and gave a presentation to the Recreation  
175 Foundation who accepted invited him to join the Board of the Recreation Foundation. He explained that  
176 the next step is to draft an addendum that the city and the foundation would formalize the event.

177  
178 Commissioner Ezran also reported that he is working with the Palo Alto Downtown Merchants  
179 Association on the reopening of Lytton Plaza on Friday, December 18th.

180  
181 Commissioner Mora asked Commissioner Ezran if he was still working on closing University Avenue  
182 for the World Music Day. He said that he does not want to take the lead on that.

183  
184 Commissioner Hamilton asked if someone could confirm the report that the Palo Alto Mediation  
185 Program was going to be cut. Commissioner Mora commented that this was an erroneous report.

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187 **B. Council Buddy Reports: None**

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189 **C. Council Liaison Report: None**

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191 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

192  
193 Mr. Hermann reported on the Memo to the Community and asked if the memo is acceptable to everyone  
194 it would be posted on the city’s website, under the sections of the HRC and Home Page under the  
195 section of “What’s New”. He also reported that a website was created from the efforts of the  
196 Community Task Force on Suicide Prevention. He said he would send everyone the link. He invited

197 Human Services Manager Minka Van Der Zwaag to speak because she had some information to share.

198

199 Ms. Van Der Zwaag Minka provided information about Food, Meal and Toy programs for people during  
200 the Holidays.

201

202 Commissioner Bacchetti asked if the City Council will get a copy of the memo. Mr. Herman said yes,  
203 but he was not sure yet as to the method of delivery, but he will work on it next week.

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205

206 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

207 None

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209

210 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

211 Presentations regarding CSD projects relating to HRC priorities.

212 Update on CAG by Police Chief

213 Planning of joint session with City Council to discussion HRC projects and/priorities.

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216 **ADJOURNMENT**

217 The commissioners commented on Commissioner Hamilton's resignation and said that they appreciated  
218 his efforts and wished him well. The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm in honor of Commissioner Jack  
219 Hamilton.