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10 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

11 **Tuesday, September 28, 2010**

12 Council Chambers
13 Palo Alto Civic Center
14 250 Hamilton Avenue
15 7:00 PM
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19 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Bacchetti, Bernardo, Chen, Ezran, O’Nan, Savage, Verma
20 **Council Liaison:** Yiaway Yeh **Staff:** Minka van der Zwaag, Amy Johnson
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23 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None
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25 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

26 **Commissioner Bacchetti made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2010 special**
27 **meeting as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Ezran, AYES: Unanimous.**
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29 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:** None
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32 **BUSINESS**
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34 **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

35 **Commissioner Savage made a motion for Commissioner Bacchetti to be the new Chair. Seconded**
36 **by Commissioner Ezran; AYES: Unanimous.**
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38 **Commissioner O’Nan made a motion for Commissioner Ezran to be the new Vice Chair,**
39 **Seconded by Commissioner Bacchetti; AYES: Unanimous.**
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41 **2. REVIEW OF FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING POLICY**

42 Commissioner Bacchetti introduced Chief Burns and explained that the policy before them is a near
43 final version but still a draft of a department policy. Chief Dennis Burns explained that the policy was
44 borrowed from the Police Executive Research Forum and will give people the direction to avoid
45 inappropriate actions and is one part of a comprehensive approach to fair and impartial policing. The
46 policy will address accountability issues and quality assurance in policing. Chief Burns pointed out a
47 mistake on page 2, by stating that a refresher course will be taken every 5 years. The department staff
48 will continue to do internal training. Seattle Police Department adopted a similar policy and helped Palo
49 Alto setup its training.
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51 Mr. Abraham, a Palo Alto resident commented that actions were better than words and that he thought it
52 was inappropriate to adopt something because it sounds good. He emphasized that the HRC should get
53 into these matters and ask good questions.

54
55 The commissioners asked questions with regards to the training and made comments that the policy
56 seemed to be a good one, and thanked Chief Burns for attending the meeting.

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58 **3. UPDATE ON PROCEDURE TO ESTABLISH FY 2011-2012 HUMAN SERVICES**
59 **RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROCESS (HSRAP) “PRIORITY OF NEEDS”.**

60 Commissioner Bacchetti explained that this year the HRC and Staff have taken on a different process.
61 He spoke about the two meetings to which the HRC invited experts and grantees in two areas: 1)
62 Children, Youth, and Senior Services, and 2) Basic Needs Services. Commissioners Ezran and O’Nan
63 commented that the meetings were informative and useful, and identified issues of transportation, and
64 continuing the momentum of Project Safety Net, as well as the need for more coordination between
65 agencies, focusing on services based on age group, how people who need the services are invisible in the
66 community, and the need for follow through.

67
68 Commissioner Bacchetti reminded the commissioners that their role in this process is to prioritize the
69 needs, decide the best use of the funds, and to make a recommendation to Council. The Request for
70 Proposal can focus on certain themes. The next step is to define the priority of needs.

71
72 Commissioners commented on service needs such as: mental health, better coordination among
73 agencies, gap in homework help, no services available for people in BMR housing, Project Safety Net

74
75 They also discussed next steps: a subcommittee of Commissioners O’Nan, Bacchetti and Ezran will
76 develop a criteria and priorities to bring back to next meeting for a vote.

77
78 Staff outlined the timeline for the process:

- 79 • November - RFP will be posted online
- 80 • December 16th – Proposals Due,
- 81 • January – February - Proposals reviewed and discussed by committee,
- 82 • March - HRC to vote on recommendation to Finance Committee
- 83 • May – Recommendation reviewed by Finance Committee,
- 84 • June – Funding adopted by City Council.

85
86 Councilmember Yeh mentioned that the Policy and Services Committee has been discussing the need
87 for coordination among agencies.

88
89 **4. DISCUSSION REGARDING HRC SERVING AS REVIEW BODY FOR**
90 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING:**

91 Ms. Julie Caporgno, Chief Planning and Transportation Official explained that her staff is responsible
92 for \$750,000. in CDBG funding per year. 20% of the funding is applied toward admin costs, 15 % to
93 public service and the rest on capital funding. Currently they rely on a Citizens Advisory Committee to
94 review proposals, but they have had a hard time recruiting people. Last year, the City Council asked
95 that they scale back on admin costs for program. They would like to propose to City Council that the
96 HRC be the group that the final staff recommendations are given to and to be the forum for public
97 review. If the HRC agrees, staff will suggest a two-year trial process and then re-evaluate. Ms.
98 Caporgno explained that the consolidated Plan required by HUD included the criteria used for the
99 funding recommendation. The commissioners agreed to play this role pending a formal request from the

100 City Council.

101

102 **5. UPDATE ON PROJECT SAFETY NET**

103 Commissioner Bacchetti reported that the City Council’s Policy and Services Committee will receive a
104 report in September which is available online. The report focuses on the 41 Developmental Assets. The
105 report discusses the need for a sustainable structure and the need for necessary funding to accomplish
106 the goals. Also, a Project Cornerstone survey will be conducted in the local schools to give the
107 community some baseline information to determine how the community is doing in regard to the 41
108 Developmental Assets.

109

110 **6. DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE/LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS:**

111 Commissioner Bacchetti summarized the committees: Palo Alto Youth Council, Palo Alto Mediation
112 Program, Liaison to Police Chief, Citizen’s Advisory Group. Commissioners shared their interest in
113 assignments which would be confirmed at next meeting.

114

115 **7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES: None**

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117 **8. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

118 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

119 Commissioner Bacchetti reported on the Citizen’s Advisory Group meeting which discussed the Taser
120 Policy and review of complaints and issues with regards to how the department deals with them.

121

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

123

124 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

125 Councilmember Yeh reported on Policy and Services Meeting: Discussing High Speed Rail issues and
126 how Project Safety Net should consider issues of the high speed rail. He asked the HRC to think about
127 how it can assist by taking a thoughtful approach on the safety issues of the high speed rail. The
128 committee is having a difficult time approaching this issue.

129

130 **D. Staff Liaison Report: None**

131

132 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

133 Ms. van der Zwaag announced the “Walk to End Domestic Violence” on October 8th, and invited any
134 interested commissioners to attend the Family Resources Ambassador Program. Also, this weekend is
135 the “Black and White Ball” which supports many non-profits.

136

137 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

138 Council Buddy Assignments

139 HSRAP Criteria and Priorities

140 Liaison Assignments

141 Discussion of Priorities from HRC Retreat

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143 **ADJOURNMENT**

144 The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.