**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION** SPECIAL MEETING Friday, September 16, 2011 **Baylands Interpretive Center** 2775 Embarcadero Rd. Palo Alto, Ca 94301 9:00 AM ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present: Bacchetti, Chen, Ezran, O'Nan, Savage, Verma Staff: Minka van der Zwaag, Amy Johnson Facilitator: Jack Hamilton **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** None **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:** None **BUSINESS** 1. PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR PALO ALTO'S CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATIONS REPORT IN REGARDS TO CDBG FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2010 TO JUNE 30, 2011. None 2. DISCUSSION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITH NEW CITY ATTORNEY, MS. **MOLLY STUMP:** Ms. Stump gave a little of her background. She answered questions regarding the use of email and Brown Act requirements. Commissioners asked her questions about certain issues of interest to the HRC such as the Ordinance against Living in Cars, and petition allowing for Marijuana distributors in Palo Alto. Mr. Jack Hamilton started a discussion regarding what motivated commissioners to want to join the HRC and to what extent have they seen movement toward their goal. 

### 3. PLANNING DISCUSSION FOR NEXT YEAR:

## A. HUMAN SERVICES "NEEDS ASSESSEMENT".

- 52 Commissioner O'Nan discussed the background of the study:
  - There is no funding available for outside assistance
  - Still need to setup focus group meetings
  - Need to prepare a survey and compile data
  - Training to be provided for staff and commissioners with regards to leading focus group meetings.
  - Need to conduct stakeholder interviews
  - Commissioners discussed their concern about using the information collected to its full potential because of the effort that will be made to complete this project.
  - Asking Palo Alto Mediators to assist with facilitating Focus Group meetings.
  - The importance of organizing the data collected so that trends can be identified correctly.
  - The use of online tools to help schedule meetings.

## **B. PROJECT SAFETY NET MOU**

Commissioner Bacchetti explained that the PSN group expanded scope and now works across a spectrum from teen suicide prevention to youth well being. Initially many organizations came together and formed a collaboration, using an MOU to describe the contributions each collaborator would make. A new focus of the group is how most effectively to use a \$2 million grant over 5 years to develop existing and new program ideas and then institutionalize the best of them as part of city and community resources for youth. The previous MOU was for one year and the HRC participated. Commissioner Bacchetti asked the commissioners if they wanted to participate in the next one. After a brief discussion of partnering with organizations who already have programs in place, it was decided that Commissioner Bacchetti would draft an MOU for discussion at the next meeting.

#### C. PRIORITIES

 The commissioners discussed the following list of priorities which will be finalized at the next meeting.

### PRIORITY #1 - HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

• Continue the process started last year with the goal of having results ready by Spring 2012, so that policy makers can use research and recommendations in next HSRAP cycle

## PRIORITY #2 - PROJECT SAFETY NET

• Contribute to the broad community priority of supporting youth well-being.

# **Emerging Priorities:**

- Discuss additional steps for intergenerational programs
- Research emerging needs of seniors to include well-being and language barriers

### Other Projects

- Organize local HRC breakfast
- Increase community participation by exploring occasional change of venue

### Continuing Practice:

- Participate in other community organizations
- Continue liaison between HRC and PAPD through Community Advisory Group

To be discussed at next meeting. E. LIAISONS, COMMITTEES, COUNCIL BUDDIES: To be discussed at next meeting. 4. ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR: Commissioner Bacchetti nominated Commissioner Ezran as Chair. Seconded by Commissioner O'Nan, Ayes: Unanimous. Commissioner Ezran nominated Commissioner O'Nan as Vice Chair, Seconded by Commissioner Verma, Ayes: Unanimous. The commissioners thanked Commissioner Bacchetti for his professional manner, leadership and many contributions to the HRC and the City. **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS** Continued Discussion of Needs Assessment Project Safety Net MOU Committee/Liaison/Buddy Assignments **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm. 

D. CALENDAR: