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6 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

7 **Thursday, January 12, 2012**

8 Council Conference Room

9 Palo Alto Civic Center

10 250 Hamilton Avenue

11 7:00 PM

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15 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Bacchetti, Chen, Ezran, O’Nan, Verma **Staff:** Minka van der  
16 Zwaag, Amy Johnson

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19 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

20 None

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22 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

23 None

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25 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

26 None

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28 **BUSINESS**

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30 **1. UPDATE ON HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**

31 Commissioner O’Nan reported that the focus group sessions have been completed with the help of the  
32 Palo Alto Mediation Program who did a great job and staff is compiling the notes from the meetings.  
33 Stakeholder interviews are still underway and the committee would like them finished up as soon as  
34 possible. Ms. van der Zwaag reported that she has still not heard back from a couple of agencies, but  
35 she will be following up with them.

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37 There was a discussion about the tasks still pending which are: a) visit to meal program at All Saints  
38 Church. Commissioners commented that because of this difficulty with this demographic the  
39 discussions should be done “one-on-one” and kept casual. b) Ms. van der Zwaag has a meeting next  
40 week with County Mental Health. c) The online survey is now available for anyone who wishes to  
41 participate in the survey. d) Ms. van der Zwaag is discussing with the intern to have her help compile  
42 the data for the report. e) Commissioners discussed possible dates to visit InnVision.

43  
44 Commissioner O’Nan thanked Commissioner Bacchetti for going over and above the requested task by  
45 interviewing 6 officers instead of just one.

50 **2. BRIEFING OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CITY’S INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT.**

51 Commissioner Bacchetti thanked the commissioners for the opportunity to brief the commission on the  
52 report. He spoke about how this report is relevant to the work of the HRC because it affects the quality  
53 of life, the city facilities are an extension of our homes; the infrastructure provides opportunities for  
54 growth, recreation, personal and interpersonal development. It is a question of staff and the statement it  
55 makes for the types of the facilities that they work in to support the city. It brings diversity and equity to  
56 a variety of needs/wants, citywide fairness, and serves all ages. He discussed five working groups and  
57 reported that they came up with 20 recommendations. Some are: the need for an infrastructure  
58 management system, the need for policies and practices that give infrastructure priority, the need for  
59 funding “catch up” and “keep up”, building a new Public Safety Building and rebuilding two Fire  
60 Stations, and enlarging the scope of the study of the Municipal Service Center and the East Embarcadero  
61 Corridor.

62 When the IBRC committee gave its report to the Finance Committee they presented options. One option  
63 involved not renewing lease with school district for the Cubberley site when it expires in 2014. . He  
64 reported that the issues of the lease of Cubberley are being discussed through a process established by  
65 the City and the School District.

66  
67 The committee is scheduled to meet with City Council on Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>. He also announced that  
68 Mayor Yeh has declared this the year for infrastructure investment and renewal

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70 The commissioners asked questions about the root causes of the infrastructure problems? Commissioner  
71 Bacchetti explained that it seems to be part of the human condition to postpone infrastructure and that in  
72 the political context it is difficult to make infrastructure a priority when there are other issues that seem  
73 to be more attractive to residents. He also said that not having a system to keep track of infrastructure or  
74 having a dedicated source of revenue are also contributing causes of the problem. Our issues are no  
75 different than State or Federal infrastructure issues. They discussed briefly a concern regarding the  
76 recommendation which suggests a super-majority vote to dedicate less than 23% of general funds  
77 toward infrastructure. Commissioner Bacchetti explained that they wanted to make it difficult for the  
78 City Council to act unknowingly when adding to the catch-up (deferred maintenance) list.

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80 **3. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

81 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

82 Commissioner Chen reported on her site visit for the Needs Assessment. She reported that she gave a  
83 talk at Senior Friendship Day about American culture and etiquette.

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85 Commissioner Verma reported that she met with PTA Council and she will be meeting with the District  
86 Nurse, Linda Lenoir next week.

87  
88 Commissioner O’Nan said that she did not meet this month with Palo Alto Mediation Program but will  
89 attend their next meeting.

90  
91 Chair Ezran reported that he and Commissioner Bacchetti attended the Police Dept’s Community  
92 Advisory Group meeting. They learned of the many recent retirements at end of December and that they  
93 are trying to recruit. The group discussed meeting less regularly in the future, for instance every other  
94 month.

95  
96 Commissioner Bacchetti reported that he and Ms. van der Zwaag attended the Project Safety Net  
97 meeting. They are searching for a Program Manager. They hope to hire someone who will be supported  
98 with grant funds for 3 to 5 years.

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**B. Council Buddy Reports:**

None

**C. Council Liaison Report:**

None

**D. Staff Liaison Report:**

Ms. van der Zwaag reported on the Comprehensive Plan feedback. The commission will have an opportunity to discuss the context at the next meeting. She also handed out flyers for the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Service Day and she reported that the new Council Liaison will be appointed next week.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Human Services Needs Assessment

CDBG recommendations for overage of unspent money

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at: 8:05 pm.