



**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Thursday, October 10, 2013**

Council Conference Room

Palo Alto Civic Center

250 Hamilton Avenue

7:00 PM

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Bacchetti, Chen, Ezran, Morin, O’Nan, Savage, Stone

**Absent: Morin**

**Staff:** Minka van der Zwaag, Amy Johnson

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Ezran made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Vice Chair Bacchetti. Ayes: Unanimous. (Absent: Morin)

Commissioner Ezran made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Chen. Ayes: Unanimous. (Absent: Morin).

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

None

**BUSINESS**

**1. Housing Learning Series – part 6- Presentation by InnVision Shelter Network.**

Mr. Philip Dah, a Senior Director at InnVision Shelter Network provided history and spoke about their housing services:

- History: 1 year ago InnVision merged with Shelter Network, for 7 years prior to the merger, InnVision had been the only local homeless services provider.
- Programs include: Food, Hotel de Zink Housing Program, Rental Assistance, Clothing Closet, Congregate Meal Program, and the Opportunity Center (OC) which was intended to be a one stop shop for homeless services and provides 88 units of permanent supportive housing.

# Approved

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(Commissioner Morin arrives - 7:05pm )

Stanford Law Clinic provides services to qualifying OC clients to obtain SSI and SSDI benefits. Emergency Rental assistance only provides services to Palo Alto residents.

Mila Zelkha, Strategic Relations Fellow for InnVision Shelter Network spoke about their housing and shelter programs. In addition to beds, they also assist with employment, overcoming addiction and mental health issues.

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

- Is there emergency family housing? Hotel de Zink only serves individuals. There are no family shelters in Palo Alto or nearby; however they have utilized programs in San Mateo County.
- Are homeless individuals with criminal records allowed in shelter program? They only check to see if someone is a registered sex offender, otherwise they are not concerned with criminal records.
- Is there a maximum time limit to be able to live at OC. No time limit. OC is permanent housing. Residents can stay as long as they pay their rent, stay out of trouble, and continue to qualify within income guidelines.
- Are there medical and psychiatric services available for “drop in” services? Yes, twice a week, by appointment.
- Since the new ban on living in vehicles, has there been more demand for their services? Not yet, but they are welcome to use all drop in services at OC.
- Case Management – They have (1) for families, (3) for “drop in”, (1) for Hotel de Zink. 20 clients per case manager. Some clients do not want case management. It takes a long time to build trust and because it is a “drop in” center, you never know if someone will come back after you’ve started working with them.

(Commissioner Chen leaves - 8:00pm)

## 2. Follow-Up Discussion on “MadeintoAmerica” Program:

Vice-Chair Bacchetti reported that he spoke to Elliot Margolies asking for advice to help with participation in the program. He forwarded an email to everyone earlier today. He encouraged all the commissioners to visit the website.

## 3. De-Brief on Joint Session with City Council

Chair O’Nan reported that she thought it went well and wants to look into the suggestions they received from Council going forward: Regular reporting to City Council, meeting with buddies, reviewing the City Council Agendas and watching for opportunities to initiate a conversation with them, find ways to inform the Council of how the Community is shifting and/or changing.

Staff Liaison, Ms. van der Zwaag said she liked two ideas – sending an informational report bi-annually to City Council and the HRC designate a member to attend a Council meeting and speak on

91 behalf of the commission during public comment time.

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93 They also discussed working more with the County and Supervisor Joe Simitian, helping describe in  
94 strategic form the needs of Human Services, and providing human relations to the Housing Element  
95 in the Comp Plan.

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97 **Commissioner Ezran made a motion that the chair and vice-chair are authorized to speak at**  
98 **City Council meetings during public comment to offer to help when issues come up that relate**  
99 **to the HRC. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Stone, AYES: Unanimous. (Absent: Chen).**

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102 **4. Next steps identified for working on HRC Priorities**

103 Ms. van der Zwaag shared her ideas on how to proceed: Each Subcommittee to meet and write a  
104 workplan and timeline to be discussed at a future HRC meeting.

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106 **5. Update on HSRAP Site Visits**

107 A sign-up sheet was passed around. A lead for each site will make the contact, schedule the visit  
108 and coordinate with the other commissioners who want to visit the same site.

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111 **6. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

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113 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

114 Commissioner Ezran reported that he attended a “Meet the Neighbors” organized by the Muslim  
115 Voice. He and Commissioners Savage and Morin met with Police Chief to hear about latest efforts  
116 and projects of the Police Department.

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118 Commissioner Morin reported on attending a book signing event recommended by Chief Burns. She  
119 also attended a recent City Council meeting and was impressed by the efforts of Ms. van der Zwaag.

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121 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**

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124 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

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127 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

128 Ms. van der Zwaag reported on the following:

- 129 • A class will be announced soon for Brown Act Training.
- 130 • The HRC is invited to attend a Board and Commission appreciation event on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
131 at Lucie Stern Community Center.
- 132 • The City Council unanimously approved \$250K for intensive case management services for  
133 the homeless coupled with housing vouchers provided by the County of Santa Clara.

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135 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

136 None

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138 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

## Approved

- 139 • Discussion of Staff Report in response to City Council request to consider moving
- 140 Avenidas and Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) out of the Human Services
- 141 Resource Allocation Process (HSRAP.)
- 142 • Invite County Board of Supervisor, Joe Simitian
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### **ADJOURNMENT**

144 The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

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