



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Thursday, September 12, 2013
Council Conference Room
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:00 PM

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ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Bacchetti, Chen, Ezran, Morin, O’Nan, Stone
Absent: Savage
Staff: Minka van der Zwaag, Amy Johnson

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Cary-Andrew Crittenden, spoke about police misconduct issues and requested the HRC’s assistance to establish internal controls.

Mr. Aram James, spoke of a previous experience of police misconduct and urged the HRC to take a stand against the Human Habitation of Vehicles Ordinance. He provided a hand out and read an article from the Pepper Spray Times.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:

None

BUSINESS

1. “MadeintoAmerica” Program Presentation by Mr. Elliot Margolies from Midpeninsula Community Media Center.

Mr. Margolies briefly explained the project which will be an archive of personal stories from people who have immigrated to this county to celebrate their stories. There was a recent Article in the Mercury news about the project. Currently there are 60 stories of incredible people with lots of History. The website provides questions to use as guidelines to help. They have received their second round of funding for the project. They will be providing writing workshops in the

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43 community to encourage and help people participate. He urged the HRC to each post a story. Mr.
44 Margolies answered the Commissioners questions.

45 **2. Learning Series on Affordable Housing (Part 5) Presentation by Bob Dolci, Santa Clara**
46 **County Homeless Services Coordinator:**

47
48 Ms. van der Zwaag introduced Mr. Bob Dolci and Sue Jung. They provided several handouts
49 (Exhibit A) and briefly discussed the following:

- 50
- 51 • Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
- 52 • Permanent Supportive Housing Fund Proposal.
- 53 • Homeless Encampment Response
- 54 • Fiscal year 2014's Re-Entry Housing Work Plan for individuals after incarceration
- 55 • Mental Health Departments Housing Opportunities Update
- 56 • Continuum of Care Governance Structure Changes for the County and Cities.

57
58 Homeless increased by 6 since last year Palo Alto. Job loss was the biggest reason individuals
59 reported that they were homeless. They are focusing on the Care Coordination Approach. He spoke
60 about the Homeless Help Outreach hotline.

61
62 He spoke about the importance of permanent supportive housing vs. temporary shelters and why it
63 costs more to house homeless people in temporary shelters.

64
65 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

66 Mr. Aram James, made a comment to clarify AB109 offenses. He asked questions of Mr. Dolci.

67 Ms. Lynn Huidekoper – a Menlo Park resident, spoke about the difficulty to obtain housing.

68 Mr. Nick Selby – a Palo Alto resident of 40 years spoke about the Human Habitation of Vehicles
69 Ordinance and how based on Mr. Dolci presentation, the ban is not helping the problem of
70 homelessness.

71 Ms. Stephanie Munoz, urged the HRC to speak to City Council against the Human Habitation of
72 Vehicles Ordinance.

73 Mr. Cary-Andrew Crittendon- spoke about funding for housing.

74 Mr. Chuck Jagoda thanked Mr. Dolci for the presentation and said that he lived in the armory. He
75 spoke about how subtracting resources where a shortage of resources already exists creates more of a
76 problem for homeless people.

77 Edie Keating – asked questions of Mr. Dolci about funding to the Housing Re-Entry Program.

78
79
80 **3. Public Hearing: Review of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report**
81 **(CAPER)**

82 Ms. Consuelo Hernandez, Planner for City of Palo presented the report. She gave a power point
83 presentation which summarized accomplishments in Public Services, Housing, and Economic
84 Development. She showed “Before/After” photos of a recent rehabilitation project at Alma Garden
85 as an example of how CDBG Funding works. The Community Working Group is the agency that
86 performs the work. The commissioners asked questions regarding the report and the property
87 repairs.

89 PUBLIC COMMENT

90 Mr. Aram James, asked questions about the report.

91 Ms. Stephanie Munoz asked question about BMR housing and shared her concern about the closing
92 of a trailer park.

93

94 **4. Planning Joint Session with City Council**

95

96 Chair O’Nan stated that in preparation of the upcoming meeting on October 7th. The subcommittee
97 prepared content for a power point presentation which is provided as a draft tonight. The
98 commissioners discussed changes and made corrections.

99

100 PUBLIC COMMENT

101 Mr. Aram James suggested that the HRC speak about the Human Habitation of Vehicles Ordinance.

102 Ms. Mila Zelkha from InnVision Shelter Network, discussed her work to do an audit of services. She
103 wanted the HRC to be aware of her work in this area and would be happy to share her findings.

104 Mr. Cary-Andrew Crittendon reiterated that the HRC needs to be involved in the issue of the Human
105 Habitation of Vehicles Ordinance as it was in the past with the Sit/Lie Ordinance many years ago,
106 which wouldn’t have passed without the help of the HRC.

107

108 **5. Confirming New HRC Priorities from Retreat**

109 Chair O’Nan led the discussion. Commissioners provided comments. They discussed the priority of
110 working with City Council and staff to find other revenue opportunities.

111

112 **Vice-Chair Bacchetti made a motion to remove the second bullet item under projects. 2nd by**
113 **Commissioner Morin, Ayes: 4, Nays: 2 (Absent: Savage).**

114

115 The commissioners discussed that the subcommittee needs to add more specificity to the content
116 before the meeting in Oct. 7th.

117

118 PUBLIC COMMENT

119 Aram James: Read the HRC mission. He made suggestions to improve meeting and improve
120 community involvement. He invited more transparency.

121 Chuck Jagoda- Spoke about the need for public toilets in the parks and he asked why the HRC was
122 not involved in more human relations issues in Palo Alto.

123 Stephanie Munoz – said she was interested in this discussion and urged the HRC be more involved
124 in the issues of the homeless.

125

126 **6. Update on Homeless Task Force**

127 Vice-Chair Bacchetti provided on update. They are discussing ways to spend 250K and how to
128 leverage with county funding and qualify Palo Alto in existing county programs. They discussed
129 education for City Council to raise their awareness including the cost to provide services. He named
130 the groups involved in the task force and that the work is in progress.

131

132 **Commissioner Ezran made a motion to formally nominate Vice-Chair Bacchetti and**
133 **Commissioner Stone as liaisons to the Homeless Task Force. 2nd by Chair O’Nan, Ayes:**
134 **Unanimous.**

135

136 PUBLIC COMMENT

137 Chuck Jagoda asked the liaisons to suggest that the Task Force talk to homeless people for their

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138 input. He said that the middle class is being squeezed out and it is important to keep diversity in the
139 community.

140 Ms. Lynn Huidekoper said that the homeless are the largest stakeholder on this issue and wondered
141 why they were not on the task force. She also spoke about an international resolution that she has
142 forwarded to members in the community.

143 Mr. Aram James said that the task force meetings should fall under the rules of the Brown Act so
144 that members of the public are allowed to attend.

145 Ms. Stephanie Munoz asked the HRC to get involved in homeless issues.

146 Mr. Cary-Andrew Crittendon spoke about equal access and equal protection in the constitution and
147 how homeless are denied equal access.

148 Ms. Mila Zelkha provided history of the Task Force for members of the public. It was not organized
149 by the City and began as a collaboration among homeless provider agencies, with participation of
150 city staff.

151 152 **7. Update on HSRAP Site Visits**

153 Chair O’Nan invited commissioners to sign up on a list that was passed around to indicate which
154 agencies they wanted to visit.

155 156 157 **8. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

158 159 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

160 Commissioner Ezran reported that he gave a speech at the Peace Picnic on September 11th.
161 Commissioner Chen reported that she gave a talk back in July to the participants of Senior
162 Friendship Day regarding American Independence Day.

163 164 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**

165 None

166 167 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

168 None

169 170 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

171 Ms. van der Zwaag reported on the following:

- 172 • A class will be announced soon for Brown Act Training.
- 173 • The HRC is invited to attend a Board and Commission appreciation event on Nov. 7th at 7pm
174 at Lucie Stern Community Center.
- 175 • Oct 1st will be another training class by Kim Klein regarding fundraising at 7pm at Lucie
176 Stern Community Center.

177 178 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

179 None

180 181 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

- 182 • Discussion to Review Study Session with City Council
- 183 • Next Installment of Affordable Housing Series
- 184 • Moving Avenidas and Palo Alto Community Child Care out of HSRAP Funding
- 185 • Follow Up Discussion on “MadeintoAmerica” Project

Approved

186

187 **ADJOURNMENT**

188 The meeting adjourned at 10:19 pm.