



COUNTY OF SONOMA  
**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Commission on Human Rights*

*May 27, 2008*

**Permit & Resource Management Department  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

***MINUTES***

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Judy Boyce, Jim DePriest, Marie Sparks

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Chris Rohde (Notified), Robert Villegas (Notified)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Maggie Martin

**I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:** Boyce called to order at 5:34 PM

**II. CONSENT ITEMS:** Since a quorum was not present, the Consent Items were tabled.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Gerald Meyer, a graduate student at Sonoma State University and resident of Forestville, addressed the Commission. Mr. Meyer explained that he was interested in volunteering to help the Commission on one or more projects and, perhaps, applying to serve as a Commissioner. His interest stems from his graduate work in cross-cultural psychology and his studies of prejudice and discrimination.

**IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:**

**Swearing in of New Commissioner:** Martin swore in Jim DePriest to represent the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

**Openings and Appointments:** Martin reported in Rohde's absence. There are ten openings in Districts 1 (3 openings), 2 (2 openings), 3 (3 openings), and 4 (2 openings).

**V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATE:**

Sparks reported that she would be meeting with Supervisor Reilly in the near future to give him her resignation due to her move to Redding after the July Commission meeting.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Commission Meetings:** Martin announced that the Hearing Room is available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of both November and December. Therefore, the Commission will meet on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> as approved at the April meeting.

**Human Trafficking:** Martin reported in Villegas' absence that plans for the upcoming event are proceeding smoothly.

She explained that there had been some question about the appropriateness of showing the R-Rated version of the documentary *CARGO: Innocence Lost*, since this version includes a graphic dramatization of a victim being raped by one of her captors. There is also a G-Rated version that omits the rape scene. Martin also explained that Christina Brenner,

Chair of the event planning task force committee, had consulted with the film's producer as well as local experts on the question of which version to show. All had agreed that the R-Rated version was most appropriate in depicting the tragedy of this crime. The group has agreed to include an announcement about the rape scene (and the timing/duration thereof) before the screening begins and let members of the audience know it is alright for them to leave if they would prefer not to see it. Christine Castillo, the Executive Director of United Against Sexual Assault (UASA) and one of the panelists that evening, has also arranged to have counselors from UASA's crisis line there to speak with any members of the audience who might find the scene disturbing.

The Commissioners discussed the issue at some length. In the end, all concurred that they support showing the R-Rated version and precautionary actions that the task force has taken to treat the matter with sensitivity and to respond appropriately to any audience member who finds the depiction disturbing.

Martin reminded all the Commissioners that they need to contact Nadine at the office to arrange to view the video before the night of the event. This is particularly important given the possible need for them help respond to any audience members who need assistance.

**Commission Group Resume Exercise:** The Commissioners shared the places they had traveled, their favorites and why. Please see attached listing for details.

**Education Program Proposals:** Sparks reported that plans for the upcoming Commissioner training program are progressing. The event will now be held at the time/date that the Commission had originally scheduled for strategic planning (i.e., Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM). Training will be held in the Human Resources Training Center in the County Administration Building.

Martin explained that the County Administrator has imposed a freeze on larger contracts and, therefore, the segment of the original contract that covered the development of the High School Training Program requires further approval and may have to be charged against the Commission's 2008 – 2009 Fiscal Year budget. This would be unfortunate, since it will reduce the funds available to hold training sessions and/or undertake other activities.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominations for Officer Positions:** Martin reviewed the fact that, according to the Bylaws, terms for Officers run for the Fiscal Year (June 1 – July 30). Nominations are opened at the May Commission meeting and again at the June meeting prior to elections being held. She also distributed an excerpt from the Bylaws detailing the requirements for and responsibilities of each of the Officer positions (i.e., Chair, Vice-Chair, and Officer-At-Large).

Martin called for nominations. DePriest nominated Boyce for a second term as Chair. Boyce nominated Rohde for another term as Vice-Chair and Villegas for a second term as Officer-At-Large.

## **VIII. STAFF REPORT:**

**Attendance Report:** Martin distributed a copy of the updated report on Commissioners' attendance at Commission meetings.

**Correspondence:** None.

### **Update on Staff Activities:**

- Referral Guide: Martin explained that Nadine Jaillet continues to focus on other priorities (e.g., EEO/ADA support, unpacking the office, Human Trafficking Event) and has not had the chance to finalize the Guide.
- Budget Preparation: Martin confirmed that there has not been any discussion of reductions to CHR's budget for the coming fiscal year.

## **IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

Awards Event: No report.

### **Strengthening the Commission:**

- Cinco De Mayo Festival: DePriest reported that he thought the Festival was a wonderful event. He was particularly impressed by the large attendance and the significant number of families in the crowd. The food and entertainment was also wonderful. He reports that he learned after-the-fact that some gang activity took place close to the end of the festivities.

**Communicating with the Public:** No report.

### **Educating the Public:**

- Windsor High School Health Fair: Sparks reported that she took the booth to Windsor for its annual Health Fair on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She was impressed by the level of interest from students. She also met the liaisons for the School's Diversity Club and was pleased to have reestablished CHR's connection with that group.

**Developing Ties with Human Rights Organizations & Building Strategic Partnerships:** Martin reported in Villegas' absence. She announced that, after listening to Robert Ochs, the Director of the County's Probation Department, address the Board of Supervisors about the problems they face with at-risk-youth on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, she contacted Phyllis Rosenfield of Listening For A Change about whether collaborating on a youth diversity training program for the Probation Department, and Ms. Rosenfield welcomed the idea. She is now working to coordinate a meeting with Robert Ochs, Phyllis Rosenfield and Villegas to discuss this opportunity.

**X. DISTRICT REPORT / COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**XI. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 5:30 PM.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:07PM.