



COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Commission on Human Rights

July 22, 2008

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

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Judy Boyce, Jim de Priest, Krishna Kumar, Chris Rohde, Robert Villegas, Marie Sparks

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Maggie Martin

- I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:** Boyce called to order at 5:42 PM.
- II. CONSENT ITEMS:** The agenda and minutes of previous meeting (with revision) were approved.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
- IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:**
Swearing in of New Commissioner: None.
Openings and Appointments: Rohde reported that there are nine openings in Districts 1 (2 openings), 2 (2 openings), 3 (3 openings), and 4 (2 openings).
- V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATE:** Sparks reported that she will resign when she moves to Redding after the July Commission meeting.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

Human Trafficking: Villegas reported the event was a success and that over 300 people attended. Highlights of other comments about the event were as follows:

- The problems noted were relatively minor and included the limited parking, access up the steep hill for those who could not park close to the entrance and with the lighting on the screen.
- Martin noted that Congregation Shomrei Torah has invited the Commissions to hold future events at their facility, and that the problems with parking can be resolved by a) providing the owners of the office complex across the street with insurance coverage and by contracting for a bus to transport people across Bennett Valley Road and up the hill.
- Kumar observed that the questions posed during the panel discussion showed the depth and breadth of the community's concern about this issue.
- De Priest remarked that Nick Sensley moderated the discussion skillfully. . .

Strategic Planning Sessions: Martin reported that she has scheduled rooms for two strategic planning session. The first is on Tuesday, August 26th, in the afternoon before the

Commission meeting, and the second is on Tuesday, September 23rd, in the afternoon before the Commission meeting.

The group agreed that they did not want to have lunch during the meeting and that the Officers would develop the format and agenda for the meeting with the following input:

- The discussion should include setting the goals for the Commission beyond the 2-year Work Plan, including a 5 and 10 year outlook.
- Human Trafficking needs to be incorporated into the Commission's projects.
- CHR should continue its focus on educational activities.
- The projects and objectives in the next work plan should be reasonable to accomplish and should have measurable outcomes. This might require that array of projects be pared down to ensure that the work can be done.

Commission Group Resume Exercise: The Commissioners shared information on their previous work experience. Please see accompanying Group Resume for specific information related to Exercise.

VII. NEW BUSINESS: None.

VIII. STAFF REPORT:

Update on Brown Act: Martin explained that a recent amendment to the Brown Act became effective as of July 1, 2008. The change relates to public information on when/where any materials distributed at a public meeting by another party will be available for review. In the Commission's case, the materials have always been available at the Commission's office. Therefore, the amendment does not require a change in our procedure. The newly required wording has already been incorporated into the Agenda.

Correspondence: None.

Update on Staff Activities: Martin noted that the staff's focus has been on the preparations for and follow up from the upcoming Human Trafficking Awareness event.

IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Awards Event: Martin distributed a listing of all the activities related to the Awards program and event that require support from Commissioners and asked for volunteers for these responsibilities. The resulting assignments are as follows:

- Planning Committee – Boyce (and others when possible)
- Sponsorship – Villegas (with support from others as needed)
- Program – Rohde
- Youth Award Outreach – Kumar and de Priest

Strengthening the Commission: No report.

Communicating with the Public: No report.

Educating the Public: No report.

Developing Ties w/ Human Rights Organizations & Building Strategic Partnerships: No report.

X. DISTRICT REPORT / COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sparks thanked her fellow Commissioners and the Board for the recognition she received at the July 15th Board of Supervisors meeting.

XI. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 5:30 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.