



COUNTY OF SONOMA

## COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

### *Commission on Human Rights*

*September 23, 2008*

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

### **MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Judy Boyce, Jim de Priest, Chris Rohde, Robert Villegas

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Krishna Kumar.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dell Jacoby

- I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:** Boyce called to order at 5:38 PM.
- II. CONSENT ITEMS:** The agenda and minutes of previous Strategic Planning and Commission meetings 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<sup>st</sup> (2 openings), 2<sup>nd</sup> (2 openings), 3<sup>rd</sup> (3 openings), and 4<sup>th</sup> (2 openings). Gerald Meyers name has been forwarded to Supervisor Reilly for appointment to the 5<sup>th</sup> District.
- V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATE:** There were no Supervisor contacts reported.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Commission Group Resume Exercise:** The Commission moved to table the Group Resume exercise until all members are present.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Summary of Actions Taken at the Strategic Planning Meeting:**

The Commission met for its first of two Strategic Planning Meetings on August 26 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The Commission had scheduled the second of two planning meetings for September 23, but canceled this session until all members could participate. The Commission will pick up its strategic planning effort again on October 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 at the HR Training Center, 575 Administration Drive, Suite 117B, Santa Rosa, followed by the regular Commission meeting at 5:30 at the PRMD Hearing Room, 2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa. A summary of actions from both planning meetings will be presented, discussed and possible action taken on them at the October 28 Commission meeting following the Strategic Planning Meeting.



## VIII. STAFF REPORT:

**Update on Projects, Activities and Issues:** Jacoby reported that she will be out of the office September 24 – 26 and again October 29-31. Jacoby also reported that the EEO/Commissions Office will be holding an Open House this holiday season, date to be determined.

**Correspondence:** The Commission received information regarding “Facing the Mountain: Breakthroughs to New Racial Landscapes”, a World Trust Symposium to be held on October 11. dePriest will try to attend.

**IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:** Comprehensive activity reports will be held until completion of the Strategic Planning process, when plans of the Commission will be finalized for the fiscal year and beyond.

Awards Event: Staff prepared and presented a budget projection for expenses and revenues for the Human Rights Awards Dinner. Based on dwindling sponsorship and increasing costs, the cost benefit ratio for the event could be negative. As the Commission is working with a limited annual budget of \$5,000, any overages on the costs of the Dinner would significantly impact ongoing and new projects. The Commission discussed the situation, with Boyce stating that it may not be in the best interests of the Commission or the County to risk an overage in spending during a time when funds may not be available to cover such an overage. dePriest was of a similar mind, stating that spending public dollars for the Dinner in the current fiscal crises would not be appropriate. Villegas stated he had mixed feelings regarding the situation and hoped that a donation from River Rock Casino would help. Rohde also hopes that sponsorship will provide enough to cover the costs of the Dinner. The Commission agreed to direct staff to pursue information about presenting the Awards and supporting legislative acknowledgements during a Board of Supervisors meeting and providing press coverage for the Awardees. Boyce will pursue the idea of canceling the Dinner at a Planning Meeting to be held as soon as possible. Rohde reported on plans for the Dinner that had begun prior to this meeting, including providing music before and after the event and the deletion of a keynote speaker this year.

Strengthening the Commission: This area of focus to be updated after the second of two Strategic Planning Meetings.

Outreach to the Public: This area of focus to be updated after the second of two Strategic Planning Meetings.

- Educating the Public
- Communications with the Public

Partnerships with Organizations and Agencies: This area of focus to be updated after the second of two Strategic Planning Meetings.

- Human Rights Organizations
- Public and Private Organizations in Sonoma County: Villegas updated the Commission he had a brief conversation with Stephan Passalacqua, District Attorney, regarding the Human Trafficking project. Mr. Passalacqua hopes the Commission will continue its efforts. Jacoby reported that Christina Brenner, Commissioner from the Status of Women, met with Mr. Passalacqua in late August to discuss the Human Trafficking Task Force to be formed by the D.A. and the Chief’s Association in Sonoma County. Ms. Brenner would like to work with both

Commissions on encouraging Police Chiefs and City Councils to support the Task Force through presentations at City Council meetings. The Commissions cannot do so until Mr. Passalacqua addressed the issue at the Chiefs Association. His office will inform staff when they may inform Commissioners on both Commissions that the Task Force has been formed. The Commission on the Status of Women is to hold an Ad Hoc meeting regarding next steps separate from the Task Force and the Commission on Human Rights will participate in the Ad Hoc meeting. Staff will coordinate when Commissioner Brenner returns from vacation in late October.

**X. DISTRICT REPORT / COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Race Equality Resolution:** Boyce updated the Commission on the resolution before the Board of Supervisors proclaiming September 14 – 21, 2008 as Race Equality Week. The Reverend Lee Turner joined Commissioner Boyce in making the presentation before the Board.
- **Race Equality Festival:** dePriest reported the Festival was a great success. Many young people visited the Commission's booth and took information regarding hate crimes and human rights. Many Diversity Clubs were represented. Villegas will attempt to get a list of those organizations that supported the Festival and tabled. Boyce thanked all who participated, particularly Nadine Jaillet for her preparation of the tabling materials.
- **Progressive Festival:** The Commission agreed to survey members who might be willing to table at this Petaluma Festival on Sunday, September 28 and will let staff know by Friday, September 26 if tabling materials will be needed. Staff will prepare the materials just in case.

**XI. NEXT MEETING:** The next Strategic Planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 1:00 PM, followed by the regular Commission meeting at 5:30 PM.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.