



COUNTY OF SONOMA  
**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Commission on Human Rights*

*February 24, 2009*

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

**MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Judy Boyce (Chair), Jim de Priest, Krishna Kumar, Judy Rice, Chris Rohde, Art Warmoth

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dell Jacoby

**INTERN PRESENT:** Gerry Meyer

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Georgina Warmoth; Joanne Beal; Valerie Rocky

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:** Boyce called to order at 5:30 PM.

**I. CONSENT ITEMS:** The agenda for February 24, 2009 (Rice/Rohde) and the minutes of the Human Rights Awards of January 17 (Rice/Rohde), the regular Commission meeting of January 27 (dePriest/Rohde), and the special Commission meeting of February 4 (Kumar/Rohde), 2009 were approved.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Members of the public introduced themselves.

**III. COMMISSION UPDATE:**

**Swearing in of New Commissioner:** Art Warmoth was sworn in representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Dr. Warmoth is a professor of psychology at Sonoma State University and has a great deal of expertise in human rights issues through research, organizational networking and volunteer efforts in the community.

**Openings and Appointments:** Rohde reported that there are openings in Districts 1<sup>st</sup> (2 openings), 2<sup>nd</sup> (2 openings), 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 openings), 4<sup>th</sup> (2 openings), and 5<sup>th</sup> (1 opening) for a total of nine vacancies on the Commission. Staff reported that Supervisor Zane's office has two applications.

**Nomination of Officer at Large:** Boyce opened elections for Officer-at-Large, per Commission bylaws. Kumar and dePriest were nominated at the January Commission meeting. Kumar removed his name from nomination due to professional conflicts and the Commission unanimously elected dePriest on a voice vote.

**IV. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATE:** Rice, Meyer, and de Priest met with Supervisor Carrillo for a half hour. Carrillo voiced interest in attending future CHR meetings and is also interested in appointing persons that will bring diversity to the



Commission. He also expressed an interest in the issue of Human Trafficking, a collaborative project of the Commission. All concluded it was a very useful meeting.

## V. **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Project Prioritization:** Staff presented a matrix of the Commission goals outlined in the 2008-10 Work Plan and worksheets for developing objectives, timelines, bench marks and project measurement. These tools are intended to provide direction and documentation for committee projects that address each goal. The project areas are: Strengthening the Commission – Internal and External; Outreach to the Public – Communicating and Educating; and Partnerships with Organizations and Agencies – Human Rights Organizations and Community Agencies. Commissioners were asked to review the current goals and be prepared for discussion and commitment to one or more of the listed projects at the next Commission meeting. Rice has committed to lead the Internal portion of Strengthening the Commission; Rohde has accepted leadership for Outreach to the Public, with Rice serving on the Communicating portion; Warmoth has accepted leadership for the Partnerships with Organizations and Agencies. Other Commissioners will choose participation and/or leadership of specific projects at the March meeting. Gerry Meyer, Intern, will also provide his work on existing human rights organizations.

**Human Trafficking:** Rice reported on the recent meeting of an expanded group of interested parties, including members of the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff, Santa Rosa Police Department, Petaluma Police, the YWCA, United Against Sexual Abuse (UASA), Social Advocates for Youth, the Commission on the Status of Women and others who may continue with the group. The purpose of the group is to ensure law enforcement is ongoing and active in the effort to protect against human trafficking. The group agreed to focus on youth sexual exploitation to begin with, providing definition, scope and a system to address the issue. Focus will expand to include other forms of human trafficking in the future. The group is researching a model developed by the Dallas Police Department. Trust building will be a large issue in this effort. Law enforcement members will collect pertinent statistics prior to the next meeting. UASA will seek to bring awareness to the schools. Rice will seek media coverage of the issue. The next meeting will be at the end of March.

**Listening Circles:** Discussion about the recent presentation on Community Listening Circles. Commissioners are encouraged to participate in groups as participants or facilitators. **Action Taken:** Support Listening for a Change's Listening Circles (Rohde/Kumar)

## VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Liaison to DA Task Force on Elder Abuse:** Discussion about the newly formed District Attorney task force on elder abuse and the request to appoint a liaison from the Commission. After discussion, the Commission agreed that the task force meets the mission and goals of the Commission. **Action Taken:** Appoint Judy Rice as liaison to the District Attorney Task Force on Elder Abuse (Rohde/dePriest)

**Liaison to Cinco De Mayo Celebration:** Rohde reported on his communication with the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, to be held on May 5 from 3:30 to 9:30 PM and asked for a Commissioner to act as Liaison to the planning committee. **Action Taken:** Designate Art Warmoth as Liaison to the planning committee for the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. dePriest also reported on tabling last year and moved to table again at the event. **Action**

**Taken:** Commission to table at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. dePriest also shared his concerns regarding tabling safety and the late ending of the event. This concern will be discussed at the next regular meeting.

**Recognition of Robert Villegas, former Commissioner:** a certificate of thanks and acknowledgement of his dedication to human rights in our community and on the Commission will be sent to Robert.

## **VII. STAFF REPORT:**

**Attendance Report:** Staff distributed attendance report.

**Correspondence:** None

**Update on Projects, Activities and Issues:**

- Staff shared handouts and directions for the use of the 211 line, a County-wide referral service for the County.

## **VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

Human Rights Awards Event: No activity

Strengthening the Commission: No activity

Outreach to the Public:

- Rohde asked staff to contact the planning committee of the Roseland Cinco de Mayo Festival to explore whether the Commission can participate in that effort.
- De Priest plans on attending the Race Equality Week planning committee meetings that have started this month.

Partnerships with Organizations and Agencies: No activity.

## **IX. DISTRICT REPORT / COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- None

**X. NEXT MEETING:** The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 5:30 PM.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.