



COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Commission on Human Rights

April 28, 2009

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

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Judy Boyce (Chair), Jim de Priest, Ida M. Johnson, Judy Rice, Chris Rohde, Art Warmoth, Ann Zimmer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Dell Jacoby

INTERN PRESENT: Gerry Meyer

PUBLIC PRESENT: Georgina Warmoth

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS: Boyce called to order at 5:33 PM.

I. CONSENT ITEMS: The agenda for April 28, 2009 (Rice/Zimmer) and the minutes of the March 24 (Warmoth/Rice), 2009 Commission meeting were approved.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the Commission and the public introduced themselves.

III. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioner: The Commission welcomed two new members: Ida M. Johnson, representing the 3rd District; and Ann Zimmer, representing the 3rd District. Both bring extensive experience to the Commission. Both new members were sworn in at the Board of Supervisors.

Openings and Appointments: The Commission currently has openings in Districts 1st (3 openings), 2nd (2 openings), 4th (2 openings), and 5th (1 opening) for a total of eight vacancies on the Commission.

SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATE: Rice reported she met with Supervisor Carrillo and Commissioner Brenner from the Commission on the Status of Women, to discuss the collaborative Human Trafficking project. Supervisor Carrillo is in strong support of the effort and he and Supervisor Brown intend to prepare a *Close to Home* article for the Press Democrat in the next couple of months. He also expressed interest in the Elder Abuse Task Force sponsored by the District Attorney. Commissioner Rice is Liaison to that task force. Rice will keep Supervisor Carrillo updated on these efforts.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Project Prioritization: At the March Commission meeting, 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.

Rohde prepared a matrix of priorities for the Commission’s consideration. Commissioners were asked at the February meeting to review the current goals and be prepared for discussion and commitment to one or more of the listed projects at the March Commission meeting. Rice took ownership of Strengthening the Commission and will lead that effort with the assistance of Boyce and Rohde; Rohde took ownership of Outreach to the Public and will lead that effort with the assistance of Johnson, dePriest, and Rice, with Boyce assisting with Human Rights Awards project; Warmoth took ownership of Partnerships and will lead that effort with the assistance of Boyce and Zimmer, with Rice assisting in developing partnerships and collaborative connections with human rights groups and local gov’t. Staff to update the Goals Matrix to include specific member assignments.

2009 Human Rights Awards Planning: Boyce opened a discussion regarding planning for the 2009 Human Rights Awards event. Staff presented 4 possible options for the Human Rights celebration, including: no change to the event; partnering with a community based organization; collaborate with existing event structures such as the Race Equality Festival; or drop the celebration and do awards and recognition of awardees only. After discussion, it was moved that the decision be tabled until next meeting. **Action Taken:** Table discussion until new Commissioners have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the event and issues (Zimmer/Warmoth.)

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Web Version of Anti-Bias Guide: Due to time constraints, it was decided to table this discussion for a future meeting. **Action Taken:** Table discussion of web version of the Anti-Bias Guide for a future meeting (Warmoth/Rohde.)

STAFF REPORT:

Attendance Report: Staff distributed attendance report.

Correspondence: The Commission did not receive any communications this month.

Update on Projects, Activities and Issues: Staff updated the Commission on budget discussions at the County; at this time, no changes to Commission support have been identified.

VI. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Human Rights Awards Event: No activity

Strengthening the Commission: No report.

Outreach to the Public:

- Warmoth reported that all is set for tabling at the Cinco de Mayo celebration; table set up is between 11:30 and 3:30 PM; the Commission will break down before the end time of 9:30 to ensure safety of Commissioners in transporting materials back to car; dePriest will set up and be at the celebration for the duration; Warmoth will table from 4:00 PM on; Rohde will table from 6:00 PM on.

- De Priest reported that Elsie Allen High School will host the Race Equality Festival this year on September. 20; the accompanying dinner “Guess Whose Coming to Diner” will be held on September 13; the event planning is continuing with great energy.
- Partnerships with Organizations and Agencies: Rice reported on her liaison to the Human Trafficking Task Force/ She has been working with law enforcement staff to define data; at this time, data is based on arrests and therefore we have no real idea of the depth of the matter; the focus will be on youth and minors at risk; the monthly Human Trafficking meeting was canceled and will be held next month.
- **DISTRICT REPORT / COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Meyer, intern, passed out three research papers he has completed on human rights. Commissioners were directed to take the content as background only, as the content also addresses civil rights, which is not directly related to the Commissions projects or mandate. Meyer asks for feedback from Commissioners.

VII. NEXT MEETING: The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 5:30 PM.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.