



**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MINUTES – JUNE 30, 2009**

**Permit and Resource Management Department
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Judy Boyce (Chair), Chris Rohde (Vice-Chair), Judy Rice, Ida M. Johnson, Art Warmoth

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jim dePriest (notified), Ann Zimmer (notified)

INTERN PRESENT: Gerry Meyer

STAFF PRESENT: Maggie Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTIONS:

Boyce called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

The Agenda for June 30, 2009 was approved; Minutes from the May 26, 2009 meeting were revised and approved. (Rohde/Johnson)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioners:

None. Note: Boyd was previously sworn in at the Board of Supervisors Office.

Appointments and Openings:

The vacancies are: three in the 1st District (3), one in the 2nd District (1), none in the 3rd District (0); two in the 4th District (2), and one in the 5th District (1), totaling seven openings (7).

Boyce reminded Commissioners that dePriest is in the process of moving from the 5th to the 4th District. She has contacted Supervisor Kelley and encourage him to appoint dePriest as one of his representatives.

Rice noted that she has spoke with Supervisor Brown and reminded her about openings in her District.

V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Rice noted that she had worked with Supervisors Carrillo and Brown on a Close to Home article for *The Press Democrat* on human trafficking. She noted that it only app.

- Rice also reported that she had spoke with Supervisor Brown about the openings in the 1st District and learned that there are a couple of candidates under consideration. She urged Supervisor Brown to have them contact her and to invite them to CHR's upcoming strategic planning session.
- Warmoth reported that he had met with Supervisor Zane. During that meeting she expressed her support for a forum on immigration issues, a public discussion on the meaning of human rights (in which she also expressed an interest in participating, and Warmoth's participation in the Joint Roseland Annexation group meetings.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Officer Nominations:

Boyce reminded Commissioners that the following nominations were made at the May meeting: Rice for Chair, Rohde for Vice-Chair, and Boyce for Officer-at-Large. She then called for additional nominations from the floor for each position. When none were put forward, she closed nominations.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Strategic Planning:

Rice reviewed the meeting Agenda that had been previously distributed to Commissioners. After a brief discussion, a consensus was reached to meet from 9:30 AM until no later than 4:00 PM with lunch brought in.

Family Justice Center & Violence Prevention Council:

Boyd gave a brief overview of these two community groups, her involvement with them, and the fact that each had invited CHR's representation in their group. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a decision on whether CHR would designate an official Liaison to either or both of these groups should be addressed as part of the strategic planning process.

Officer Elections:

Since there was only one nominee for each Officer position, staff conducted elections for the slate of nominees for the 2009-10 term. The Commission unanimously elected Rice as Chair, Rohde as Vice-Chair, and Boyce as Officer-at-Large.

VIII. STAFF REPORT:

Attendance Report Distribution:

Staff distributed the attendance report to Commissioners.

Correspondence:

None.

Update on Staff Activities:

◇ **Budget:**

Staff reported that there have been no changes in the budget for the Commission's program funds to date and reminded Commissioners that they will need to develop a budget for each project during as part of the strategic planning process.

◇ **Staff Support:**

Martin reviewed the e-mail sent previously to Commissioners summarizing implications that the elimination of Analyst-level staff support. She also informed Commissioners that she was working with County Counsel on guidance compliance issues and to develop training resources. In addition, she is developing a “toolkit” to help them with a number of administrative functions.

- ◇ **Other:**
None.

IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Strengthening The Commission:

No update.

Outreach to the Public:

Rohde distributed a summary of the goals and objectives for projects in the communicating and educating areas of the Outreach topic area and noted that finalizing this will be part of the strategic planning process.

- ◇ **Events**

- Cinco de Mayo Festival:

- Warmoth reported that the Festival organizing committee considers this year’s event was the most successful to date. The weather and the group’s greater familiarity with logistics were both contributors to the success. The group will be exploring ways to use the proceeds to support activities in the Latino community.

- He suggested that CHR explore ways to provide more information on the Commission’s priorities and activities at next year’s event.

- Race Equality Week Festival:

- Boyce reported that dePriest is regularly attending the monthly planning meetings and is pleased with the group’s progress in planning an exciting event.

- ◇ **Communicating:**

- Rice reported that she is still planning to produce a periodic report/newsletter on CHR’s activities. She expects to deliver the first “issue” in August or September.

- ◇ **Educating:**

- Rohde reported that he has not received a response from either Santa Rosa or Elsie Allen High Schools on his invitation to host the Essence of Acceptance program during the 2009-10 academic year. He will make a personal visit to each campus later in the summer.

Partnerships with Organizations & Agencies:

Warmoth distributed a summary of the goals and objectives for projects in the topic area developed in a recent meeting. He noted that the group had determined that updating CHR’s web listing of other organizations/agencies (formerly called the Anti-Bias Guide) was a major priority. He will be distributing a pared down list to Commissioners for review. He went on to say that, given limited resources, the focus should be on developing collaborations on immigrant and mental health rights.

◇ **Human Rights Organizations:**

Human Trafficking Liaison:

Rice reported that the first “group wide” meeting was held earlier that day Deputy District Attorney, Joan Risse is the Chair with Rice and Christina Brenner (Commission on the Status of Women) supporting her as Co-Chairs. At the meeting, six sub-groups were established, each charged with contributing to a report for presentation to the Board of Supervisors in a year.

Elder Abuse Liaison:

Rice reported she had attended the District Attorney-sponsored summit on elder abuse in Oakmont earlier that day. The agenda included a presentation by the chair of the National Committee to Prevent Elder Abuse and panel discussions. She made a presentation on safety tips for elders at which she discussed CHR’s mission and received positive feedback and interest from 20 or so attendees. She is unsure whether the DA’s task force will continue to operate now that the event is over.

◇ **Community Organizations/Agencies:**

No report.

X. DISTRICT REPORTS, COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENT REPORTS:

- Rice reported.

XI. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 28, 2009 at 5:30 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Boyce adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.