



**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

**Permit & Resource Management Department (PRMD) Hearing Room
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Victor Amstadter, Judy Boyce (Officer-at-Large), Patricia Boyd, Mario Castillo, Dale Geist, Elizabeth McCarthy, Judy Rice (Chair), Chris Rohde (Vice-Chair), Art Warmoth, Roger Jack Young, Ann Zimmer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Patricia Boyd, Ida M. Johnson (both notified)

INTERN PRESENT: Gerry Meyer

VISITORS PRESENT: Bill Ruppert

I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTIONS:

Rice called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM. After introductions were made Rice bid Boyce a farewell, thanked her for her years of dedication to the Commission on Human Rights, and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

Boyce motioned to approve the September 22, 2009 Agenda with one correction: Zimmer to speak on Disability Service and Legal Center, under Old Business. Geist seconded, passed unanimously. Boyce motioned to approve the August 25, 2009 Minutes, Young seconded. McCarthy abstained. Boyce motioned to approve the August 25, 2009 Strategic Planning Session II Minutes, Geist seconded. McCarthy abstained.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Ruppert, a member of the public, obtained a chart titled *Offenses by Race* that he brought to the attention of the Commission. He found the chart an interesting piece of data, and asked what the reason was for such a high percentage of Latino first time offender traffic arrests?

IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioners:

Rice welcomed Amstadter, McCarthy, Castillo, and Young as new Commissioners, and administered the Oath of Office to them.

Appointments and Openings:

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

V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

Supervisor Communication Updates:

Geist reported Supervisor Brown asked him to present the Draft County of Family Unity Ordinance to the Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Commission Draft Biennial Work Plan 2009-2011:

Amstadter made a motion that all Commissioners review the 2009-2011 Draft Work Plan, be prepared to discuss, and have possible action and or approval of, at the October meeting. Warmoth seconded. All were in favor.

Progressive Festival:

Warmoth attended the festival and reported that several of the organizations tabling were from outside of Sonoma County. The focus was on peace in general, on a more global scale, rather than locally. Warmoth recommended not tabling at this event in the future.

Quarterly Commission Newsletter:

Rice reported it is in good shape, and that a volunteer is working on making the format ADA accessible so it can be posted onto the County's website.

Latino Health Forum:

Zimmer requested to attend this event as a commission representative, and to make a report of what she learns at the October Commission meeting. The group will then determine if this is an organization the Commission would like to liaison with.

Disability Service and Legal Center (DSLCL):

Zimmer explained this is a human rights organization for people with disabilities. It was agreed for Zimmer to make contact with DSLCL, and to make a report of what she learns at the October Commission meeting. The group will then determine if this is an organization the Commission would like to liaison with.

Committee for Immigrant Rights:

Geist will learn about this organization and report his findings at the October Commission meeting.

Race Equality Week:

Geist reported he found this to be a very positive event. Good food and constant entertainment helped attract a large number of the public. Tabling at this event is effective in raising the CHR profile in the community, and especially good in reaching youth. Many young people attended this year and became acquainted with the CHR. McCarthy spoke with a senior high school student, who she directed to check the CHR website periodically for information on the Junior Commission project.

2009 Human Rights Awards Event:

Rice explained that due to the recent staff transition, the awards timeline is behind schedule. She asked all Commissioners to provide names and email addresses of contacts they want to receive the nomination application, and Jaillet will email the application. Rice commented that if it is not possible to meet the December 10, 2009 target date, the awards may need to be postponed until January, 2010. A nomination selection committee has already been formed.

CHR Junior Commission:

Rice asked all to review the Junior Commission draft scope of operations and come to the October meeting prepared to participate in one or more phases of the project.

Transition Issues:

Rice reported on a meeting she attended with county Human Resources Management: there is no danger of the Commission or Commission budget being cut; and the Human Resources Director agreed the Senior Office Assistant can attend Commission meetings to take minutes.

Rice expressed being thankful for receiving authorization to order easier to read and sturdier Commissioner nameplates. Each Commissioner will be responsible for bringing their own nameplate to and from Commission meetings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Expenditure Approval:

McCarthy moved and Zimmer seconded to approve expenditure for \$150.00 for a meal on August 25, 2009, between the Strategic Planning Session II and the regular Commission meeting. All were in favor.

Review and Approval of Revised CHR Bylaws:

The CHR Bylaws, revised September, 2009, were reviewed. Rohde moved and Zimmer seconded to accept the proposed changes to the CHR Bylaws noted in red. All were in favor.

Nominations for Officer-at-Large:

Tabled until the October 2009 Commission meeting.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report Distribution:

Attendance report was distributed.

Budget Report Distribution:

Budget report was distributed.

Correspondence:

None.

IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Strengthening the Commission:

Rice reported on earlier under Old Business.

Outreach to the Public:

◇ **Events:**

Race Equality Week Festival:

Rohde thanked all who participated in tabling at this event.

Partnerships with Organizations & Agencies:

Warmoth reported the CAHRO website advertises the January 2008 event. It is assumed the 2009 event has not occurred, and may not be occurring.

◇ **Human Rights Organizations:**

Elder Abuse Liaison:

Rice reported there are two conferences planned, one on October 16, 2009 in Cloverdale, and one on October 24, 2009 in Sebastopol.

Family Justice Center and Family Violence Prevention:

No report.

Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison:

No report.

Human Trafficking Liaison:

Rice attended the task force meeting last month. *United Against Sexual Assault* (UASA) and *Social Advocates for Youth* (SAY) are forming strong connections with the task force.

Rice forwarded an email of public concern for working conditions of street corner migrant vendors, originally sent to Geist, to the Human Trafficking Task Force for review.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

- Commission Draft Work Plan 2009 – 2011: discussion, possible action, and approval of.
- Latino Health Forum: report, discussion, and possible Commission action to approve Zimmer as CHR Liaison with this organization.

- Disability Services and Legal Center: report, discussion, and possible Commission action to approve Zimmer as CHR Liaison with this organization.
- Committee for Immigrant Rights: Geist to report, and possible discussion and or Commission action.
- Junior Commission Project: each Commissioner prepared to offer the role(s) they commit to in assisting with this project - planning, recruiting, implementing.
- Nominations for Officer-at-Large for remainder of 2009-2010 fiscal year term.
- Juvenile Justice Commission: discussion and possible Commission action to approve Amstadter as CHR Liaison with this group.
- Warmoth to bring website workgroup proposal to the October, 2009 Commission meeting.
- Bill Ruppert invite to the October, 2009 Commission meeting for questions and discussion of the *Offenses by Race* data sheet brought before the Commission.

XI. DISTRICT REPORTS, COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENT REPORTS:

None.

XII. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

XIII. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 5:30 PM.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Rice adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.