



**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MINUTES – MAY 26, 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, Ann Zimmer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jim dePriest (notified), Art Warmoth (notified)

INTERN PRESENT: Gerry Meyer

STAFF PRESENT: Dell Jacoby, Taryn Lewis, and Maggie Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTIONS:

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

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

The Agenda for May 26, 2009 was approved; minutes from the April 28, 2009 meeting were approved. (Zimmer/Rohde and Rice/Zimmer, respectively)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioners:

None.

Appointments and Openings:

Rohde announced that, in early June, Patricia Boyd will be appointed to represent the 2nd District after having served for several years on the Commission on the Status of Women. Therefore, the vacancies will be: 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 noted that dePriest will be moving from the 5th to the 4th District and that she will contact Supervisor Kelley and encourage him to appoint dePriest as one of his representatives.

Rice noted that she has encouraged Supervisor Carrillo to make appointments that broaden the representation of diversity and youth on the Commission.

V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Rice noted that she contacted Supervisor Carrillo to determine what contact format and frequency he prefers for receiving updates from CHR.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Project Prioritization:

Staff reviewed the project/goal matrix and prioritization (*Attachment A*) that shows the prioritization of CHR's current projects. She explained that the leaders would need to summarize the projects in their topic areas, and directed their attention to the example submitted by Rice for "Strengthening the Commission." The summaries should include the objective, timeline for accomplishing goals, performance benchmarks and the objective measure by which projects will be evaluated. These summaries should be updated regularly and submitted to the Office for distribution with the Agenda packet for Commission meetings. Staff also stressed the fact that these summaries will form the basis for a year-end report and prospective Work Plan that will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Human Rights Awards:

Boyce opened a continued discussion of the alternatives for the 2009 Human Rights Awards begun at the April Commission meeting. Staff distributed a summary of options for this year's Awards (*Attachment B*) with the following three alternatives (and notations):

- 1) Continue with an afternoon or dinner event as in the past.
 - Metric benchmarks on progress toward goals would be required.
 - The event would have to be self sustaining without any reliance on the General Fund.
 - Staff support for coordinating the event will be minimal, and Commissioners will have to assume responsibility for all planning and coordination.
- 2) Partner with other human rights organizations/events.
 - At this point in the planning year, establishing a partnership is unlikely.
 - CHR's efforts would be focused on supporting the awards nomination, selection and publicity on the recipients and the partner would be primarily responsible for coordinating any event held to recognize the recipients.
- 3) Drop the event and continue with nominations/awards.
 - The public recognition of the recipients will be held at the Board of Supervisors with possible consideration of a scaled-down event held after that meeting.
 - As in No. 2 above, CHR's focus would be on the nomination, selection of and publicity about the recipients with minimal effort and cost directed to any "event."

ACTION TAKEN: This year's awards even be presented as outlined in Option 3, with a recognition at the Board of Supervisors followed by some form of reception. (Rice/Zimmer)

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Officer Nominations:

Boyce announced that she would entertain nominations for Commission Officers for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. The following nominations were put forth for consideration and possible vote at the June Commission meeting: Rice for Chair, Rohde for Vice-Chair, and Boyce for Officer-at-Large.

Boyce reminded the Commissioners that nominations will be taken again prior to elections being conducted at the June meeting.

Web Version of the Anti-Bias Guide:

Staff reported that Warmoth had asked that this item be tabled until some point in the future.

Meeting Date Change:

Boyce asked the Commission to consider rescheduling the June Commission meeting from the 4th Tuesday (June 21st) to the 5th Tuesday (June 30th) because both she and Rode will be away. ACTION TAKEN: Hold the regular Commission meeting on June 30, 2009 rather on June 24, 2009. (Johnson/Rice)

VIII. STAFF REPORT:

Attendance Report Distribution:

Staff distributed the attendance report to Commissioners (*Attachment C*).

Correspondence:

None.

Update on Staff Activities:

◇ **Update on 2009-10 Commission Budget:**

Staff reported that there have been no changes in the budget for the Commission's program funds to date.

◇ **Junior on Commission:**

Staff reported that, in the opinion of County Counsel, a minor could be appointed to the Commission, but would be prohibited from voting. The normal appointment process would be followed and a Supervisor would, therefore, agree to have one of his/her appointees be a non-voting minor. Staff also pointed out that the Commission could consider alternative ways to ensure that the youth have a voice. The Commission on the Status of Women's nationally-recognized Junior Commissioner Project is one model. Another possibility would be to sponsor a "youth congress on human rights" where high schools/diversity clubs sent delegates to a county-wide body.

◇ **Cardinal Newman Diversity Club:**

Staff reported that Cardinal Newman High School had contacted the office expressing an interest in creating a Diversity Club in the fall. The caller was given contact information for Cloverdale and Windsor High Schools, since they are both models of successful diversity clubs.

IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Strengthening The Commission:

Rice reviewed the summary she had compiled for the projects under this topic area in detail (*Attachment D*). She asked all Commissioners to review the information and offer any feedback they feel is appropriate.

Outreach to the Public:

◇ **Cinco de Mayo Festival:**

Rohde reported that Festival attendance was high and that he was particularly pleased by the number of youth who attended. He felt that the

CHR booth location was good and that the T-shirts were a definite crowd pleaser.

◇ **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.

Outreach to the Public:

◇ **Communicating:**

No update.

◇ **Educating:**

Rohde reported that he has scheduled meetings with the administration at both Santa Rosa High and Elsie Allen High to discuss bringing a diversity awareness program to those campuses in the 2009-10 school year.

Partnerships with Organizations :

◇ **Human Rights Organizations:**

Human Trafficking Liaison:

Rice reported that the group has not met since the CHR's last meeting because the Chair (Deputy District Attorney, Joan Risse) has been out of town. Now that she has returned, Rice expects progress to be made on this initiative.

Elder Abuse Liaison:

Rice reported that June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The District Attorney's office is sponsoring an event on June 30th to address this issue. It will be held from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at Oakmont, and admission is free. Current plans call for an audio broadcast of the presentations to several senior centers throughout the County.

Community Organizations/Agencies:

No report.

X. DISTRICT REPORTS, COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENT

REPORTS:

- Boyce asked Commissioners to share any comments and/or suggestions they may have had on the report that Meyer had submitted directly with him after the meeting.

XI. NEXT MEETING:

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Boyce adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.