

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES BUREAU
100 W. BROADWAY, SUITE 550, 5:30 PM**

Kerry A. Gerot, Chair
James Morgan, Vice Chair
Sandy Horwitz, Commissioner
Byron Bolton, Commissioner
Alyxandria Mancini, Commissioner



Jeannine Pearce, Commissioner
Rohida Kahn, Commissioner
Miles Mcneeley, Commissioner
Elisa Buchannan, Commissioner

DRAFT AGENDA AND MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Gerot called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Commissioners James Willis Morgan, Kerry Gerot, Byron Bolton, Miles

Present: McNeeley, Elisa Buchanan and Jeannine Pearce

Commissioners Sandra Horwitz, Alyxandria Mancini and Rohida Kahn

Excuse:

STAFF PRESENT

Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Coordinator; Rebekah Amick, Intern

OTHERS PRESENT

Tatiana Sere, Community Relations Coordinator, WomenShelter of Long Beach

Giovanna Martinez, Youth Services Coordinator, WomenShelter of Long Beach

Michelle Scott, The Rock Christian Fellowship

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

14-009HR RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL
10, 2014 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING

Suggested Action: Approve Minutes

**This item was held over to the next meeting. Only three of the six
members present were at the last meeting.**

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Welcome and Introduction of new Commissioners – Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator

Chair Gerot welcomed three new commissioners: Jeannine Pearce, Miles Mcneeley and Elisa Buchannan to the Human Relations Commission.

- b. Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil - Women's Shelter of Long Beach (WSLB) - Tatiana Séré, Community Relations Coordinator WSLB

Tatiana Séré and Giovanna Martinez, WomenShelter of Long Beach, informed the Commissioners about the Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil scheduled for Friday, October 17, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. The event is called "Together We Can" and is free to the public. They asked the Human Relations Commission to support this event.

Discussion ensued.

RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL ON OCTOBER 17, 2014.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morgan, seconded by Member Bolton, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 – Kerry Gerot, James Morgan, Byron Bolton, Jeannine Pearce, Miles Mcneeley and Elisa Buchannan

Excused: 3 – Sandy Horwitz, Alyxandria Mancini and Rohida Kahn

Further discussion ensued.

- c. Long Beach Unity Festival - Stephanie Butler Adams, Executive Director The Long Beach Unity Festival

Stephanie Butler Adams was not in attendance. Teresa Gomez presented this item. This is an annual event that the Human Relations Commission (HRC) has endorsed in the past. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Commissioner Sandy Horowitz invited them and asked that HRC endorse this event once again. In support, we will have a table at the event.

Discussion ensued.

**RECOMMENDATION TO ENDORSE THE LONG BEACH UNITY FESTIVAL ON
SEPTEMBER 13, 2014.**

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Pearce, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 – Kerry Gerot, James Morgan, Byron Bolton, Jeannine Pearce, Miles Mcneeley and Elisa Buchanan

Excused: 3 – Sandy Horowitz, Alyxandria Mancini and Rohida Kahn

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Gerot announced that a member of the public was in attendance and returned to the Public Participation item.

Michelle Scott from The Rock Christian Fellowship announced their annual cancer celebration at their church on Sunday, October 19. She is also a member of You're Not Alone (YNA), a support group for people with cancer. This year they are having a free 2-hour Zumba class on Saturday, October 18, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., called "Get on Beat for the Cure" at McBride Park in Long Beach. Councilmember Dee Andrews, 6th Council District, is sponsoring the event. She extended an invitation to the Commissioners.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Gerot suggested that the Commission Place this item on next month's agenda to seek an endorsement of the event.

- d. Chair remarks - Kerry A. Gerot, Chair

Chair Gerot once again welcomed the new Commissioners.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion on Commissioners to select focus topic areas – James Morgan, Vice-Chair

Vice Chair Morgan gave an overview of how topics are presented to the Human Relations Commission, and about the Commission's role as an advisory group.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Gerot announced that Stephanie Butler Adams, Executive Director, The Long Beach Unity Festival was at the meeting and would return to Item 4C.

Ms. Adams announced that the festival has adopted the Long Beach Unity Music and Arts Festival to distinguish itself from other unity festivals. The 15th annual festival will be held on Saturday, September 13, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The Long Beach Unified School District helped support the event through marketing.

Discussion ensued.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner District Updates and Announcements

Teresa Gomez announced the Human Trafficking Workshop at St. Mary's Hospital on September 26, 2014, from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The event is free.

Commissioner Pearce announced that the Mayor's transition team released its report today and is available online. She also shared the issues she is interested in.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Mcneeley shared the issues he's interested in.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Buchannan shared why she wanted to be on the Human Relations Commission.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Gerot and Vice Chair Morgan suggested adding a strategic planning/new member orientation on next month's agenda. Commissioner Buchannan suggested delaying the item for two months to allow time for the final members to be appointed to the Commission. The item will be included on the November agenda.

Chair Gerot asked for a moment of silence to commemorate 9/11.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morgan, seconded by Commissioner Mcneeley, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Note:

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