

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES BUREAU
100 W. BROADWAY, SUITE 550
LONG BEACH, CA 90802, 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

FINISHED AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners James Willis Morgan, Sandra Horwitz, Byron Bolton, Elisa

Present: Buchanan, Jeannine Pearce and Rohida Kahn

Commissioners Kerry Gerot and Miles McNeeley

Excused:

Commissioners Alyxandria Mancini

Absent:

STAFF PRESENT

Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator; Rebekah Amick, Clerical Aid.

OTHERS PRESENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[14-010HR](#)

Recommendation to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2014 and September 11, 2014 Human Relations Commission regular meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Horwitz, seconded by Commissioner Bolton, to approve the Minutes of April 10, 2014. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: James Morgan, Sandy Horwitz, Byron Bolton

Excused: Kerry Gerot, Miles McNeeley

Absent: Alyxandria Mancini

Abstained: Jeannine Pearce, Rohida Kahn, Elisa Buchannan

A motion was made by Commissioner Bolton, seconded by Commissioner Pearce, to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2014. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: James Morgan, Byron Bolton, Jeannine Pearce, Elisa Buchannan

Abstain: Sandy Horwitz

Excused: Kerry Gerot, Miles McNeeley

Absent: Alyxandria Mancini

Abstained: Rohida Kahn

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

[14-011HR](#) Welcome and Introduction of new Commissioner Rohida Khan -
Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator.

Teresa Gomez welcomed new commissioner Rohida Kahn.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Remarks - Kerry A. Gerot, Chair

Vice Chair James Morgan gave an overview on the Human Relations Committee's role, and gave the new Commissioners an opportunity to ask questions.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair James 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.

Commissioner Horwitz presented an issue before the Human Relations Commission to study housing for foster children in Long Beach, what projects are available for these kids and what the Commission might recommend looking forward.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Horwitz asked that the creation of a Subcommittee on the State of Foster Children in Long Beach be placed on the agenda.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pearce presented an issue before the Human Relations Commission to discuss the housing situation, the quality of housing, in Long Beach, and suggested that Housing Long Beach give a presentation regarding the Healthy and Safe Homes Ordinance they are working on through the City Council.

Discussion ensued.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Long Beach Unity Festival - Sandra Horwitz, Commissioner

Commissioner Horwitz stated that the festival held on September 13, 2014, was a success. The Human Relations Committee booth had books to give away and asked staff how the Commission can provide more books at future events.

Teresa Gomez stated that the books were donated to the Human Relations Commission by Long Beach Blast.

b. Update on Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil - Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator

The vigil will be held on October 17, 2014, beginning at 5:30 p.m., on Broadway and 3rd Street, by the Art Exchange. There will be a vigil around the block with a post-vigil celebration at the Art Exchange at 7:00 p.m. Since the Human Relations Commission endorsed the event, Ms. Gomez encouraged the Commissioners to attend. The event is being coordinated by WomenShelter.

Discussion ensued.

c. Discussion on Strategic Planning for Commissioners - James Morgan, Vice Chair

Commissioner Morgan stated that, as discussed earlier in the meeting, there are several potential items for the next agenda: (1) discuss forming a subcommittee to study housing in Long Beach for foster children, and (2) request that Housing Long Beach come to present the Health and Safe Homes Ordinance.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kahn presented the issue of how neighborhood watch programs are working and how the Commission can encourage them to do more.

Teresa Gomez stated that that issue does not fall under the purview of the Commission.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Buchannan presented the issue of creating an easier telephone number for the Police non-emergency hotline and publicize, create awareness of the new number. Every City has one but not everyone knows the phone number.

Discussion ensued.

Teresa Gomez stated she would contact the Director to see if the Commission has the ability to pursue this issue.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Morgan asked if the item could be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Buchannan stated that the proposal for the agenda is for access to the Police non-emergency hotline and bringing awareness.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner District Updates and Announcements

Commissioner Bolton announced the following events: October 19 - Taste of Uptown at Atlantic Ave. and Artesia Blvd.; October 15, 10-12 a.m. - Flu shots for seniors at St. Mary Towers; October 16, 10 a.m. - Free cell phones for seniors at St. Mary Towers; October 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. - Zumba Health Fellowship for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Teresa Gomez announced a workshop on October 26, 9-11:30 a.m. at California State University, Long Beach. Councilwoman Price is coordinating the event. She also stated that a list of parade events and future Commission meetings was distributed for the Commissioners' information.

Commissioner Pearce announced that the Mayor plans to seat more people on the Human Relations Commission within the next month.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Bolton, seconded by Commissioner Horwitz, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

I, Belinda Pineda, certify that the agenda was posted on October 2, 2014, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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