
**Minutes
Human Relations Commission
August 11, 2009**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, August 11, 2009
6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

(MEMBERS) Present:

Colleen Byron
Arlene Chin
Kathy Dietz
Joseph Mann
Frank Morales
Linda Ritland
Thaddeus Swiecki
Josephine Vega
Patricia Young
Florence Boyle

(MEMBERS) Absent:

City Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti
Liz Alvarado

Guests Present:

Chief Tom Ryff, Tempe Police Dept
Sgt. Scott Smith, Tempe Police Dept
Charles Cobbs, Tempe Police Dept
Michael Greene, Financial Services
Diana Nanez, Az Republic

Meeting convened at 6:05 P.M.

Chair Arlene Chin called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 –Consideration of Minutes

June 9th, 2009 Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Joseph Mann to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Colleen Bryon

Minutes APPROVED.

June 16th, 2009 Commission Minutes

Chair Arlene Chin recommended some verbiage changes in the 1st and 2nd paragraphs.

Motion made by Commissioner Thaddeus Swiecki to ACCEPT minutes as amended.

Second by Commissioner Colleen Bryon

Minutes APPROVED.

Agenda Item 3 – Downtown Homeless Issue

Tom Ryff, Police Chief of the Tempe Police Department and Sgt. Scott Smith spoke to the commission about the homeless issues the City of Tempe is faced with, primarily in the downtown area. There have been concerns raised about Tempe Police Officers targeting the homeless. Chief Tom Ryff provided a PowerPoint presentation showing facts regarding the increase of calls for service received and also the increase of crimes committed in the downtown area.

Chief Ryff also mentioned one of the problems Tempe faces is it has homeless individuals returning and committing numerous crimes and many times crimes escalate in violence. He provided lists of multiple crimes unidentified homeless suspects have committed. Charles Cobbs stated that gangs are also becoming a big issue on the weekends on Mill Ave. The Chief ended by assuring the commission the Tempe Police Department is committed to utilizing intelligence driven policing strategies to detect and address the crime issues in Tempe.

Agenda Item 4 – Diversity Supplier Update

Michael Greene, the Central Services Administrator for the City of Tempe Financial Services Department provided the commission with the annual review of the Diversity/Race Neutral Strategic plan for the 07/08 fiscal year. The results show improvement in almost all benchmark categories from the previous fiscal year and an increase in the overall number of HUB (Historically Underutilized Business) firms registered with the City of Tempe.

Agenda Item 5 – Draft Statement from Regional HRC

The draft statement proposed by the City of Phoenix was reviewed by the commission. After discussion it was decided that the commission agreed with the statement but has not formally approved the draft due to a time restraint. The commission will discuss further at the Regional Human Relations Commissions meeting later this month.

Agenda Item 6 – Diversity Department Update

Staff Rosa Inchausti provided the Diversity Department Update

- A. Colleen Bryon invites everyone to participate in the GSA quarterly Adopt a Mile cleaning event, she will email all HRC members with the next scheduled date.
- B. The proposed accessibility code changes affecting areas surrounding parking spaces and the increase of fees for ADA parking violations is going before Council in August and September for approval.
- C. Karl Stephens is working on distributing the Access Tempe brochures.

Agenda Item 7 – Current Events Announcements

The Regional Human Relations Commission Meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 24th or 25th in Chandler.

Liz is working on printing and mailing out the Diversity Dialogue Fall Series applications.

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for September 8th, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Prepared by: Liz Alvarado

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager