

**Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
October 13, 2009**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, October 13th, 2009  
6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Florence Boyle  
Arlene Chin  
Kathy Dietz  
Joseph Mann  
Robert Marshak  
Frank Morales  
Linda Ritland  
Thaddeus Swiecki

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Colleen Byron  
Kade Twist  
Josephine Vega  
Patricia Young

**City Staff Present:**

Rosa Inchausti  
Liz Alvarado

**Guests Present:**

Jeff Kulaga, Assistant City Manager

**Meeting convened at 6:02 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**

**September 8th, 2009 Commission Minutes**

**Chair Arlene Chin** recommended some verbiage changes in agenda item 5 in the 1st paragraph.

**Motion made by Commissioner Linda Ritland to ACCEPT minutes as amended.**

**Second by Commissioner Frank Morales**

**Minutes APPROVED.**

### **Agenda Item 3 – WUD Update**

Jeff Kulaga, the Assistant City Manager for the City of Tempe, updated the commission regarding the Water Utilities Department and the incident regarding the Kyrene Water Reclamation Plant which caused several employees to get sick due to the H<sub>2</sub>S levels. He explained to the commission that although the incident happened two years ago the City of Tempe is working towards making the capital repairs to the Kyrene Plant. He shared with the commission a summary report that showed diagrams of the proposed odor control alignment and external gas monitoring system. This system will show the employees the H<sub>2</sub>S levels before entering the room. Jeff stated construction to the Kyrene Water Reclamation Plant will begin January 2010.

The question was raised about how the employee issues are being resolved. He stated that the entire department will be going through leadership training with Tempe Learning Center and the Human Resources Department and mediation with SEIU. Commissioner Linda Ritland asked what the ratio is for female and male employees. Jeff was not able to give the commission the numbers but agreed to provide the commission with those at a later date. He closed by saying this matter is not being ignored and is being taken seriously.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Regional Group Participation**

The Human Relations Commission discussed their thoughts on their participation in the Regional Human Relations Commission meetings. Rosa consulted with the city attorney regarding the commission's participation at the regional level. The attorney stated that in order to bring something to the regional level the commission must have the vote of the body. If the commission chooses to take a public stand, the commission should let the Mayor and Council know that it is taking the stand in case there is any press release they may have to know about. The commission shall give the Mayor and Council a chance to respond if there is an action being taken at a regional level.

The commissioners came to a consensus to continue participation in the Regional HRC, but don't see the need for formally creating another structured group at this time. They will continue to work together with the other cities to help resolve issues that come up.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Draft Statement from Regional HRC**

The Human Relations Commission reviewed and revised the draft statement. Rosa Inchausti will have the city attorney look over the revised draft statement and have it ready for the next Regional Human Relations Commission meeting.

**Motion made by Commissioner Joseph Mann to ACCEPT revised draft statement.  
Second by Commissioner Linda Ritland**

### **Agenda Item 6 – Diversity Department Update**

Staff Rosa Inchausti provided the Diversity Department Update

- A. **Diversity Dialogue** is taking place at the Pyle Center due to renovations at the Library. Rosa invited the Human Relation Commission to attend the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Florence Boyle will update the commission on what time to arrive that evening.
- B. **Tardeada** was a great success. Rosa thanked all who participated in the event.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Current Events Announcements**

Rosa Inchausti passed around Dr.Santos Vega's book.

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for November 10th, 2009.

### **Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.**

Prepared by: Liz Alvarado

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

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Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager