

**Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
December 8, 2009**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, December 8th, 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  
Colleen Byron  
Arlene Chin  
Kathy Dietz  
Robert Marshak  
Frank Morales  
Linda Ritland  
Thaddeus Swiecki  
Kade Twist  
Josephine Vega  
Patricia Young

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Joseph Mann

**City Staff Present:**

Rosa Inchausti  
Liz Alvarado

**Guests Present:**

Caterina Mena, Tempe Community Council

**Meeting convened at 6:15 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

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### **Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes**

#### **October 13th, 2009 Commission Minutes**

**Motion made by Commissioner Kathy Dietz to ACCEPT minutes.**

**Second by Commissioner Colleen Bryon.**

**Minutes APPROVED.**

**Important Note:** Commissioner Robert Marshak requested the information once again regarding the demographics of the Water Department. He recalls Commissioner Linda Ritland asking Assistant City Manager, Jeff Kulaga for the information. Rosa Inchausti agreed to speak with Jeff Kulaga and provide these numbers for the commission at the January HRC meeting.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Diversity/Unity Grants**

Caterina Mena spoke to the commission regarding the Diversity Unity Grants. She explained to the new commissioners that the grants are awarded to the 5 Tempe Union High Schools at the MLK brunch in January. The grants are typically \$6,000 in award amount. The funding is used by the schools for pilot and continuing programs which promote stability, courtesy and respect among diversity. Each school must fill out an extensive application and the amount given to each school is determined by a subcommittee. The subcommittee consists of Tempe Community Council board members and Human Relations Commission members. Commissioner Colleen Bryon thanked the TCC for all their hard worked and efforts and asked why this year HRC commissioners were not invited to join the subcommittee. Caterina was unsure but assured the commissioners she would look into it. Chair Arlene Chin mentioned the cancellation of November's meeting and suggested that could be the reason why HRC commissioners were not invited to join the subcommittee. Chair Arlene Chin asked that Caterina see if it would be possible to expand review for HRC commissioners who are interested in joining the subcommittee. Caterina agreed to contact the Diversity Department with more information for the commissioners.

Caterina shared with the commission that this will be the last year for the Diversity Unity grants due to the budget cuts. The commission expressed concern and stated they believe it is an important program that educates youth about inclusiveness. Chair Arlene Chin suggested the Human Relations Commission and the Tempe Community Council come together and form a subcommittee to work on preserving the grants. Commissioner Kathy Dietz volunteered to start the subcommittee and agreed to schedule a meeting with Caterina to form the subcommittee. Chair Arlene Chin asked that the topic be added to next months agenda.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Diversity Department**

Chair Arlene Chin received a request from Commissioner Kathy Dietz to discuss an article published in the newspaper in October regarding a formal complaint filed against the City Manager and the City. Chair Arlene Chin honored the request after clarification from the city attorney. She informed the commission the city attorney has advised the parties involved to limit their comments. Chair Arlene Chin asked Rosa

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to comment on the situation. Rosa confirmed she has filed a notice of complaint and has had to hire an attorney. She hopes the situation will be concluded in January.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Chair & Vice-Chair Elections**

Chair Arlene Chin and Vice-Chair Linda Ritland thanked the commissioners and Rosa for their hard work and dedication.

The commissioners were handed a copy of the Human Relations Commission By-Laws and a ballot form. Chair Arlene Chin called for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Patricia Young nominated Florence Boyle for Chair. No other nominations were made. Commissioner Colleen Byron nominated Patricia Young for Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made. All commissioners voted unanimously for Florence Boyle as incoming Chair and Patricia Young as incoming Vice –Chair.

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

Staff Rosa Inchausti provided the Diversity Department Update

- A. NAACP Presidents Award** - Rosa shared with the commission that Chief Tom Ryff was awarded the NAACP Presidents award in November for his inclusive leadership with both City workforce and community.
- B. MLK Diversity Awards Nominations** – Rosa handed out the nominations forms to the commission and reminded the commissioners the deadline for nominations is December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- C. MLK Diversity Awards Speaker** – Rosa announced the keynote speaker for the MLK Diversity Award presentation will be Betty Greathouse. The Diversity Awards will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Buttes Resort.
- D. Regional Human Relations Commission Meeting** – The group discussed the purpose of the regional groups and will continue discussion at the next quarterly meeting. Tempe HRC will be hosting the next Regional HRC meeting in February.

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

None

**Meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.**

Prepared by: Liz Alvarado

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

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Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager

