

**Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
September 14, 2010**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Dr. Colleen Byron  
Belinda Chiu  
Armando Espinoza  
Joseph Mann  
Robert Marshak  
Frank Morales  
Jay Scherotter  
Thaddeus Swiecki  
Josephine Vega  
Dr. Patricia Young

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Florence Boyle  
Kathy Dietz  
Kade Twist

**Diversity Staff Present:**

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator  
Ginny Belousek, Sr. Diversity Specialist

**Guests Present:**

Sandy O'Donnell

**Meeting convened at 6:35 P.M.**

**Vice-Chair Patricia Young** 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**

**August 10, 2010, HRC Commission Minutes**

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**Motion made by Commissioner Byron to ACCEPT minutes.  
Second by Commissioner Espinoza.  
Minutes APPROVED.**

**September 2, 2010 Teen Diversity Dialogue Minutes  
Motion made by Commissioner Byron to ACCEPT minutes.  
Second by Commissioner Scherotter.  
Minutes APPROVED.**

### **Agenda Item 3 – SB 1070 Update**

Commissioner Byron reported for the SB 1070 subcommittee. The HRC had been planning to facilitate a community conversation on SB 1070, but all the confirmed panelists dropped out for various reasons. The committee decided not to hold the forum; however this does not mean that the HRC will not do something going forward. Commission Byron said that she is open to suggestions. Commissioner Marshak stated that the problem at this point is that the bill is an on-going court case. Commissioner Scherotter asked if anyone had any facts about anything happening in our community relating to this topic. Rosa Inchausti responded that she spoke with Police Chief Tom Ryff, and he said that there have been no problems in Tempe. The Police Department is not doing anything different, with the exception that all officers have now completed the required training.

Commissioner Espinoza stated that his wife is a teacher at Connolly Jr. High. She says the school has lost 30% of their students, which results in fewer teachers due to the low enrollment. Commissioner Young agreed, and said her school has had a reduction in students due to this proposed bill. She stated that the students are fearful, especially with college admissions. She then asked if it would be appropriate or needed for the commission to state a position on SB1070? Commissioner Marshak stated that the commission discussed this last month and learned that as a body the commission cannot make resolutions, only advise. Commissioner Byron stated that it is “dicey” as a group to come out with an opinion for or against the bill as a commission of the City Council. But, she stated, as individuals you can give your opinion. She urged everybody to do what they can do separately. Commissioner Espinoza stated that this topic is on the agenda for tomorrow’s Regional HRC meeting. Commissioner Byron said this might be a more appropriate group to make a statement since it is not tied to a specific City Council. Commissioner Scherotter suggested that from time to time the commission add SB 1070 to the agenda, and that the commission be made aware if there are events in the City. Commissioner Byron suggested that SB 1070 be a standing agenda item every month.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Teen Diversity Dialogue Subcommittee**

In Commissioner Dietz’s absence, Commissioners Morales and Scherotter reported on the September 2 meeting. The meeting focused on a program that Commissioner Scherotter found that airs on MTV. It is called “Challenge Day”. The subcommittee viewed portions of the program during their meeting. The program consists of highly trained facilitators going into high schools and working with a large group of approximately 60-90 students, ranging from freshmen to seniors. They are told to answer the question, “If you really knew me you would know.....” The students share about their lives including diversity, social issues, family, etc. Commissioner Scherotter said that he called the Challenge Day office and found out the program costs \$4,000, and there is currently a three-year waiting list. However, a good

written proposal may move a school to the top of the list. A proposal must come from a school, not a body such as our commission. Commissioner Scherotter stated that this program is not meant to change the current curriculum that the subcommittee has already created, but to supplement it. Commissioner Mann said that if/when the grants become available again perhaps the commission can steer the schools towards this concept.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Diversity Department Update**

#### **A. Inclusion Training**

Rosa reported that the first Inclusion Training, which took place in August, went very well. The evaluations were positive and the LGBT section was overwhelmingly supported. There is one 8-hour class scheduled every month, which is held 4 hours one week and 4 hours the next week. All the scheduled classes are full through the end of 2010 and a waiting list has been created. The Diversity Office is currently scheduling the 2011 dates. Rosa then stated that the Diversity Office has been asked to facilitate all aspects of this training, from scheduling the dates and facilitators to enrolling the participants. Our office is currently short-staffed so this has added a large workload to Rosa and Ginny. The question was asked if the training was made mandatory for staff. Rosa answered that no, the City Manager's Office did not support making the training mandatory; however there has been a lot of support from each department director in requiring their staff to attend. Rosa then said that all Commissioners are welcome to attend the Inclusion Training, and if interested to please contact her.

#### **B. Regional HRC Meeting**

Rosa handed out the agenda for tomorrow's Regional HRC meeting. Four commissioners committed to attending.

#### **C. Tardeada**

Rosa reminded the Commission that the Tardeada will take place on Sunday, October 10, from noon – 8 p.m.

#### **D. Who's Your Neighbor**

Ginny Belousek reported on the "Who's Your Neighbor" program. She said that on September 1<sup>st</sup> a program was held on "Exploring Buddhism". It was very well received with very positive evaluations. The next "Who's Your Neighbor" will take place on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at noon in the Council Chambers and the topic will be, "Self Expression – Tattoos and Body Piercing."

### **Agenda Item 6 – Current Events**

Commissioner Espinoza announced that the Diversity Leadership Alliance's (DLA) annual conference will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Byron announced that Amnesty International will be meeting this Sunday at 12:30 at Boulders on Broadway.

**Motion:** Commissioner Boyle moved to adjourn the meeting

**Second:** Commissioner Scherotter

**Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.**

Prepared by: Ginny Belousek

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

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Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager