

**Minutes
Human Relations Commission
December 13, 2011**

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Hannah Auckland
Florence Boyle
Armando Espinoza
Joseph Mann
Frank Morales
Jay Scherotter
Thaddeus Swiecki

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Belinda Chiu
Don Calender
Kathy Dietz
Josephine Vega
Dr. Patricia Young

Diversity Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator
Dee Hodson, Diversity Office Assistant

Guests Present:

None

Meeting convened at 6:10 P.M.

Commissioner Espinoza 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

November 8, 2011, HRC Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Mann to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Scherotter.

Minutes APPROVED.

Agenda Item 3 – Utah Compact – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza brought copies of the Utah Compact and a draft entitled “City of Tempe, Guidance on Immigration, December 2011”. Commissioner Espinoza invited commissioners to review the draft and send any comments or suggestions to Rosa or Commissioner Espinoza before January’s Human Relations Commission meeting on January 10, 2012. Commissioner Swiecki wondered if the United States Supreme Court agreeing to review Arizona’s SB 1070 would have any impact on the proposed City of Tempe’s Guidance on Immigration discussions. Commissioner Espinoza explained the Tempe Guidance on Immigration offers guidance only and is not intended to be policy. Commissioner Auckland added that although the United States Supreme Court has accepted to hear SB 1070, a decision will not be ready until summer 2012.

Commissioner Mann asked what the main force was behind the creation of the Utah Compact. Commissioner Espinoza explained it was a conflict between the church and the government concerning how immigration issues were being addressed. Commissioner Scherotter asked for clarification on the intention and use of the Tempe Guidance on Immigration. Commissioner Espinoza said the Guidance on Immigration would be shared with The Tempe City Council and would provide them with additional direction when dealing with immigration issues.

Agenda Item 4 – MLK Diversity Awards Update – Rosa Inchausti

Commissioners were asked to assist advertising the nomination process for the MLK Diversity Awards. The nomination applications have been mailed and are online. The application deadline has been extended an additional week until Friday, December 23, 2011. Ginny Belousek will facilitate reviewing the nominations with interested Commissioners on Thursday, December 29, 2011 at 1pm in the 3rd floor conference room at City Hall. All Commissioners are encouraged to participate.

Rosa announced the keynote speaker will be Dr. Jacqueline Jackson, Superintendent of the Roosevelt School District. Dr. Jackson will speak of the Roosevelt School District’s history of desegregation connecting to the theme of the Arizona State Centennial year. Additionally Dr. Jackson will be a great tie in for the Human Relations Commission’s focus on youth involvement at the MLK Brunch. Having the first Teen Diversity Dialogue participants in attendance will show how far schools have come in the past 100 years.

Agenda Item 5 – Immigration Education Update – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza shared an Arizona Republic article from December 9, 2011 entitled “Alabama GOP Leaders Have 2nd Thoughts on Immigration”. The article discussed Alabama Republicans, who pushed through the nation’s toughest law against illegal immigrants, and how they are having second thoughts amid a backlash from big business. Alabama’s Republican attorney general is calling for some of the strictest parts of it to be repealed. Commissioner Espinoza added that the repercussions are sheer economics. Alabama farmers dislike the new law because their crops are rotting in the fields from a lack of willing workers.

Agenda Item 6 – HRC Nominations and Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair – Armando Espinoza

Rosa explained that nominations are taken for Chair first and then Vice-Chair. The vote can either be open or closed via secret ballots. Commissioner Scherotter asked what the duration of the term is. Rosa confirmed the term is for 12 months. Historically, the Chair MC's the upcoming MLK Brunch. Last year the Chair and Vice-Chair shared the MC duties at the MLK Brunch and it was decided to continue that successful endeavor.

Commissioner Espinoza called for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Mann nominated Commissioner Espinoza for Chair. Commissioner Espinoza accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Commissioners voted unanimously for Commissioner Espinoza as incoming Chair.

Commissioner Espinoza called for nominations for Vice-Chair. After previously consulting with Commissioner Dietz to confirm she would accept the nomination, Commissioner Morales nominated Commissioner Dietz for Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made. Commissioners voted unanimously for Commissioner Dietz as incoming Vice-Chair.

Agenda Item 7 – Diversity Department Update – Rosa Inchausti

- A. Who's Your Neighbor? "New Technology for People with Visual and Hearing Impairment", December 15, 2011, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Garden Level at Tempe City Hall**
Heidi Capriotti, Marketing Coordinator for Sun Sounds will discuss how this 32 year old radio service serves its diverse audience.
- B. MLK Diversity Awards Brunch January 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m.**
- C. Diversity Dialogues January 25, 2012 – March 7, 2012, 6 – 7:30 p.m.** Rosa reported that the Diversity Dialogue mailers will be going out soon. The Teen and Adult applications are currently available online. The Teen and Adult Dialogue programs will be run concurrently as previously decided.
- D. Regional Unity Walk February 4, 2012 –** The new pedestrian bridge at Tempe Town Lake will be incorporated in the Unity Walk this year. Those who previously met at the ASU Parking Lot 59 will begin their walk at the Tempe Center of the Arts connecting with the group beginning at the Town Lake Marina. The walk will end at Tempe Beach Park as in past years.

Rosa reported on a recent Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) visit to Mulligan's Manor. Mr. & Mrs. Diaz, who have been Tempe residents for over 20 years, have recently converted their home into a haven for homeless youth with the purpose of "a supportive environment that provides youth a safe and loving home". They currently have 4 displaced youth ranging in ages from 12-17 years old. The GSA has received their Christmas wish list and is conducting a fundraiser to ensure the boys have a memorable Christmas this year. Commissioner Scherotter asked what funding Mulligan's Manor received. Rosa reported they receive some funding from CPS as well as the State Foster Care system, but it is not enough. Commissioner Espinoza added that LGBTQ youth have the highest mortality, suicide and high school dropout rate in addition to a high incidence of depression.

Commissioner Scherotter asked if neighboring cities have their own GSA groups. Rosa said that Scottsdale is the only other surrounding city but it is not as strong as Tempe's GSA because Tempe receives more city support.

Commissioner Morales asked about setting a date for Diversity Dialogue youth facilitator training. Commissioner Espinoza will check his calendar and determine when he is available to conduct that training.

Rosa presented Commissioner Mann with an engraved pen in recognition of his eight years of service on the Human Relations Commission. Rosa and the Human Relations Commissioners thanked Commissioner Mann for his support of the Diversity Office and his service to the Human Relations Commission for the past eight years.

The next meeting will be January 10, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Prepared by: Dee Hodson

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator