



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Monday January 25, 2010
Regular Meeting
City Hall, Council Chambers & Room 1027
First Floor, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lisa Scheps - Chair

Judy Cortez - Vice-Chair

Elizabeth Brenner

Jay Chung

Tom Davis

Delia Meyer

Absent: DeWayne Lofton

HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF PRESENT:

Yamile M. Ortiz, EE/FHO Admin. Support (Absent)

Janice Yarbrough, EE/FHO - Lead Investigator

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair, Lisa Scheps

QUORUM CALL

A quorum was met.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of November 23, 2009 were approved after corrections and changes were made; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Davis second on a 6-0 vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No Expenditures

ITEM I

Presentation by Lindsay Marsh of Equality Texas on the Safe Schools Forum Held September 16.

Ms. Marsh informed the commissioners about the meeting and explained the main purpose on ongoing discussion for safety schools and how meaningful is to implement education free for students of the harmful, physical, and emotional effect of bullying and harassment.

Ms. Marsh also stated that the Equality Texas Foundation believes that the current status does not adequately address the prevention, intervention and elimination of bullying and harassment from schools and that a comprehensive program is necessary to put in place.

The Equality Foundation recognized that training and education is essential to enforce safety. She closed her presentation stating that bullying and harassment is a problem in Texas schools and that students must be safe to learn.

ITEM II

Presentation by Rudy Williams, Austin Citizen and a possible representative from the Austin Police Department in regard to a Resolution Concerning Austin Police use of Arbitrary and Excessive force.

Mr. Rudy William could not be present, but Debbie Russell and John Mannon Assistant Chief of the City of Austin Police Department (APD) spoke in lieu of him.

The general idea is about the standards in the use of force policy, in how they value life, the preservation of life standard. The standard is being proposed that all elements of the standards are incorporated in the APD policy. The police department is on the same page and encouraged panel to take a look of the current policy, governing the preservation of life.

ITEM III

Approve formal proposal to host the 2011 - International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies Conference.

Formal proposal for the conference will be sent to Council for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Cortez and second by Commissioner Meyer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Meyer announced the Anti-Death Penalty Work Group is having an Alternative Spring Break function from March 15, 2010 to March 19, 2010; kids will come and discuss death penalty issue. Special panel will be there sharing their experience after being exonerated from death row.

Also, Anti-Death Penalty Groups will be there like the Texas Moratorium Network, the Group from Witness to Innocence which supports over 100 men in USA that have being exonerated from death row, the Journey of Hope Crime Victims Group which generally put together from the students against death penalty of the University of Texas. On Thursday March 18, 2010 at the front steps of the Capitol at 5:30 pm it will be a rally to support this group.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Cortez and second by Commissioner Brenner. Commissioner Lisa Scheps adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Commissioners will meet in the Meeting Room No. 1027 for a Non-voting Work Session

The next meeting will be **Monday, February 22, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.** in Council Chambers at City Hall.

NOTE: If you are unable to attend a meeting, please notify Yamile M. Ortiz at 974-3250 - giving more than 48-hour notice.