



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

AGENDA

Monday, January 23, 2012

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in Room 1027

First Floor, 301 West Second Street

Austin, TX 78701

The Human Rights Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting, beginning in Council Chambers from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, and continuing in Room 1027 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Both portions of the meeting are open to the public. For more information, contact Yamile Ortiz, Admin. Support, at 974-3250.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Tom Davis, Chair
Paul Rhea, Vice Chair

Elizabeth Brenner
Judy Cortez
DeWayne Lofton

Delia Meyer
George Reynolds

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Citizens signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR:

- a. Change in the order of business for the Commission
- b. Packet of information received from Sabrina Brown

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Presentation by Judge Kelly Evans and/or Judge Leonard Saenz about the Judicial Support Task Force, regarding their work on the Youth Court and the Student Rights to Education Initiative. (Cortez/Davis)
- b. Update by Karen Gross of the Anti-Defamation League, regarding the activities of the Austin Hate Crimes Task Force. (Rhea/Brenner)

- c. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed Mission Statement for the Commission. (Reynolds/Davis).
- d. Discussion and possible action regarding the 2011 Work Plan objective to raise awareness among Austin's citizens of our mission as advocates against discrimination. (Davis/Rhea)

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation by Activate Austin on its objectives, and how they and the Commission can work together against discrimination in Austin. (Davis/Rhea)
- b. Discussion and possible action regarding to what extent the City Attorney's Office is available to research and provide legal opinions to the Commission regarding its duties under Section 2-1-148 of the City Code. This includes, but is not limited to, Subsection (C)(1), which requires the Commission to "advise and consult with the city council on all matters involving racial, religious, or ethnic discrimination, and devise practices to promote equal opportunity" and Subsection (C)(3), which requires the Commission to "recommend to the City Council legislation to aid in programs designed to eliminate prejudice and discrimination." (Reynolds/Rhea)

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- Report by Carla Scales on the outcome of the most recent investigation into charges of racism in the Austin Parks Department.
- Discussion regarding the Commission's appeal procedure from the ordinance hearing on November 28, 2011.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Commissioners propose agenda items for future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon requests. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Tony Robertson at 974-3259, Human Resources Department / Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Human Rights Commission, please contact Yamile M. Ortiz, at 974-3250.