



## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday July 23, 2012**

**5:30 – 6:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers**

**6:30 – 7:30 pm in Room 1027**

**First Floor, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701**

Chair Tom Davis called the Board Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Tom Davis, Chair  
Paul Rhea, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Brenner  
Judy Cortez  
DeWayne Lofton  
Delia Meyer  
George Reynolds

#### **Human Resources Staff Present:**

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison  
Tony Robertson, EE/FHO Executive Liaison

### **1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

Richard Troxell, House the Homeless, spoke on the shortage of shelters and beds for homeless women in Austin.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the May 31, 2012, meeting were approved; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Reynolds seconded on a 6-0 vote.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion of letter of condolence to the family of Officer Jaime Padron. Letter approved; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Meyer seconded on a 7-0 vote.
- b. Discussion and possible action regarding including a “preservation of life” standard in the Austin Police Department (APD) Response to Resistance Policy – tabled until August meeting.
- c. Discussion and possible action regarding the City's anti-discrimination policy as it relates to contractors – tabled to August meeting.

- d. Discussion and action on a resolution urging City officials to work towards abolishing the death penalty. (Meyer/Rhea)  
Scott Cobb, Texas Moratorium Network, spoke regarding establishing a moratorium on executions in Texas.  
Resolution in favor of moratorium and abolition approved; Commissioner Meyer motion, Commissioner Cortez seconded, on a 6-1 vote.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion regarding the Commission's meeting structure. Everyone agreed that the current structure is working.

#### **5. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Commissioners discussed:

- Submitting a resolution to the IOHRA conference.
- Improving the Human Rights Commission website by restoring the content that we agreed to last year. All contents have been restored, and links to the restored content were added on the Commission's main page.
- Consensus was reached not to include the Austin Commission on Immigrant Affairs (ACIA) in future meetings, at least until the membership of their commission changes.
- Discussion of ongoing training on procedures for conducting hearings.

#### **6. STAFF BRIEFING**

- Mr. Robertson spoke about the EE/FHO status: The Employment side is working toward completion of contract which concludes at the end of September.  
We have a memorandum of understanding with the Texas Workforce Center, where we have a presence onsite three days a week, taking discrimination complaints.  
Housing closed 101 cases for the 2011-12 fiscal year.
- Working on executing the memorandum of understanding for the LGBT presentations, brochures, and partnering with the Austin Tenants' Council.

#### **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Discussion and possible action regarding the inclusion of a Preservation of Life standard in the Austin Police Department (APD) Response to Resistance policy.
- Discuss the LGBT Anti-Discrimination policy as it relates to contractors for the City.
- Discuss the shortage of shelters and beds for homeless women in Austin.
- Briefing from our IAOHRA delegate, Judy Cortez, on the 2012 conference.

#### **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fast for the Abolition of the Death Penalty held in Washington D.C.
- Workshop on LGBT legal issues – legal protections available to same sex couples in Texas
- Commissioner Rhea spoke at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Vincent Chin (victim of hate crime) – Panel discussion of Hate Crimes

- Youth Court – City Council approved last month \$150,000 for the implementation of the first phase of the Youth Court (2 year pilot project). This will be implemented for the 2012-2013 school year.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Tom Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM without objection.