



## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday August 27, 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 5:34 p.m.

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

Tom Davis, Chair  
Paul Rhea, Vice Chair  
Judy Cortez  
DeWayne Lofton  
George Reynolds

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

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

### **1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The minutes from the July 23, 2012, meeting were approved; Commissioner Rhea motion, Commissioner Cortez seconded on a 5-0 vote.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding including a “preservation of life” standard in the Austin Police Department (APD) Response to Resistance Policy.

Debbie Russell spoke regarding the desire to have precise language in the preamble of the Austin Police Department Policy regarding the use of deadly force. Currently the language is mostly found in the specifics of the policy. Ms. Russell believes that it is important to make the changes visible in the preamble to establish it as a guiding principle throughout the policy.

Ms. Russell will provide an updated resolution for the commission to consider at the September meeting.

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

- a. Discussion and regarding the Convention on Human Rights to be held in Austin on September 1.

Ester Reyes, Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition, hosting an Austin Human Rights Convention, invited the AHRC to attend convention on September 1, 2012.

- b. Discussion regarding the shortage of shelters and beds for homeless women in Austin.

Irit Umuni, Trinity Center, spoke on the need for more beds to be made available for homeless women.

Richard Troxell, of House the Homeless, spoke in support of the Emergency Women's Shelter Task Force.

Resolution in support of building a new shelter for homeless women in Austin approved. Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Rhea seconded, on a 5-0 vote.

- c. Discussion and regarding bringing City of Austin employees into Civil Service status.

Greg Powell, AFSME, spoke in favor of charter amendment establishing a Civil Service Commission for all non-public safety City employees.

Endorsement of all City of Austin employees gaining Civil Service status was approved. Commissioner Cortez motioned, Commissioner Loftin seconded, on a 5-1 vote.

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

Commissioners discussed:

- There will not be a Fair Housing Conference to attend this year.
- Discussion of preparation for meetings and hearings.
- Discussion of getting resolutions onto the Council agenda.

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

- Mr. Robertson spoke about the EE/FHO status: Housing addressing concerns about aged cases. Will begin outreach on September 1<sup>st</sup> for our LGBT anti-discrimination campaign.
- Employment: received a downward modification of our current contract for this fiscal year, at this time we have met our new contract obligation.

#### **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.

#### **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Briefing from our IAOHRA delegate, Judy Cortez, on the 2012 conference.
- Tony Robertson announced his departure from the City of Austin.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Tom Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM without objection.