



## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday April 22, 2013**

**5:30 – 6:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers  
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701**

Chair Paul Rhea called the Commission Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

#### **Commission Members in Attendance:**

Paul Rhea, Chair	Tom Davis	Judy Cortez
George Reynolds, Vice Chair		Elizabeth Brenner

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

Jonathan Babiak, Administrator, Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EE/FHO)  
Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison

#### **1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no citizen communications

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

The minutes from the March 25, 2013 regular meeting and the March 23, 2013 annual work session were approved; Commissioner Davis motion, Commissioner Cortez seconded on a 5-0 vote. Commission member Lofton was absent.

#### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

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

- a. Resolution related to Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.
  - i. Mirusha Yogarajah, intern for Asian American Resource Center, read a resolution requesting that Asian Americans are fully included in all the policies and programs of the City of Austin and are offered an equal voice in the decisions that impact them as members of the larger Austin Community.

- ii. Ramey Ko, member of President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, spoke on the recognizing the Asian American community as the fastest growing ethnic group in the Austin community for the past 10 years. Mr. Ko stated that right now Asian Americans are being left out of the critical conversations for the Austin community.
- iii. Leslie Varghese, Executive Director and General Counsel to the Asian American Resource Center, spoke on the necessity of the City of Austin to provide services to the underserved Asian population.
- iv. The Commission considered and approved a resolution recommending full support by Austin City Council for Asian Americans to be included in all of the policies and programs of the City of Austin and to be offered an equal voice in the decisions that impact them on a 5-0 vote, Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Brenner second. Commission member Lofton was absent

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

- a. 2013 goals were divided into three categories: community discussion, outreach project and improvement of internal processes.
  - i. Community discussion will change to meeting with stakeholders.
  - ii. Staff to provide training on the employment and housing discrimination complaint and hearing process at May special called meeting.

## **6. STAFF BRIEFING**

- a. Presentation and discussion related to the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- b. EE/FHO will hold Fair Housing Conference on April 23, 2013.
- c. EE/FHO planning a LGBT community forum event.

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Presentation from the Transgender Education Network of Texas.
- b. Presentation on the progress of the Austin Youth Court.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ADJOURN**

Chair Paul Rhea adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM without objection.