



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 24, 2014

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

6:30 pm to adjournment in Room 1027

301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701

Chair Paul Rhea called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Paul Rhea, Chair

Jonathan Luu, Vice-Chair

Elizabeth Brenner

Sara Clark

Judy Cortez

Will Krueger

DeWayne Lofton

Human Resources Department Staff Present:

Joya Hayes, Assistant Director Human Resources

Jonathan Babiak, Administrator, Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EE/FHO)

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

There were no citizens' communications.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 26, 2014 regular meeting were approved with changes on a 5-0 vote; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Luu seconded, Commissioners Lofton and Brenner were not present.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The 2013 Human Rights Commission Annual Report was approved on a 7-0 vote; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Luu seconded.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation from Nelson Linder, President of the Austin NAACP, regarding the 2013 City of Austin Annual Report: Generating Jobs, Tax Revenues and Investments. Mr. Linder expressed concern over the challenges to meeting expressed goals in the report. He feels that the City is not doing anything to address and mitigate the known challenges they face.
- b. Presentation from Dolores Gonzalez, liaison to the City of Austin Mayor's Committee for People With Disabilities, and Manager, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Office, about the ADA office and the services that it provides to the community.

6. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The status of the Commission's goals and objectives for 2014.
 - i. Housing Affordability – HRC will explore different housing affordability issues through the use of appropriate City departments, interest groups, research, etc.
 - ii. Internal improvements – Commission will address internal Commission and EE/FHO issues.
 - a. Research and propose recommendations related to the City's retaliation clause in response to discrimination.
 - b. Correction to the process by which the public sends mail to commissioners.
 - c. Recommendation to change the 'Vendor Discrimination Complaint Form'.
 - d. Correction to City Code which references an incorrect law.
 - iii. PARD Meal Program –HRC will provide a recommendation to either change the contract or find alternatives for religious exemptions for the PARD Congregate Meal Program.
 - iv. Transportation Survey – The Commission will hear presentations from the Austin's community of persons with disabilities regarding transportation issues and develop goals and possible further action.
- b. Plans and strategies for meeting those goals and objectives.

7. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. Update on discrimination case statistics.
- b. Dan Dean, Deputy Officer, Building Services and David Lothery, Security Manager, Building Services spoke on the processing of City mail.
 - i. It was reiterated that the correct manner to address mail and assure that it is received by Commissioners is to always place the City Department in the mailing address.
 - ii. It was also confirmed that the individuals in the City mailroom are not blacking out addresses and returning mail to sender.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm without objection.