



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 25, 2014

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Street-Jones Bldg., Room 400a

1000 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78702

Chair Paul Rhea called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Paul Rhea, Chair

Sara Clark, Vice Chair

Elizabeth Brenner

Judy Cortez

Lauren Guilbeaux

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

No citizens' communication.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 28, 2014 regular meeting were approved on a 7-0 vote;
Commissioner Clark motion, Commissioner Lofton seconded.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Chair Rhea reminded the Commission members that the Human Rights Commission meeting in September will be held at the Street-Jones Building, 4th Floor, 1000 E. 11th Street, Austin TX 78702.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Brian Manley, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department presented an update regarding the department's cite and release policies and statistics.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation related to Council Resolution No. 20140807-102 requesting a proposal from the City Manager to implement a City of Austin identification card in calendar year 2015.
 - i. The City of Austin is exploring the feasibility of a municipally issued identification card.
 - ii. The City has looked at models used in other cities across the United States; especially the one used Oakland, California that offers a debit card option.
 - iii. The process is in the very early stages and the Health and Human Services Department will be tasked with gathering stakeholder input from various entities and citizens of Austin.
 - iv. Public meetings will be forthcoming.

6. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The status of the Commission's goals and objectives for 2014.
 - i. Austin Affordable Housing
 - ii. Transportation Study for Disability Community
 - iii. PARD Congregate Meal Program
 - iv. Improve internal Commission/EE/FHO processes and procedures.
 - v. APD Racial Profiling – Cite and Release program vs Arrests for possession.
 - vi. Economic Disparities in the African American Community.
- b. Plans and strategies for meeting those goals and objectives.

7. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. EE/FHO has a new temporary employee working in the office, Marissa Jones. At this time, Ms. Jones is looking to maximize outreach for the division using free or low cost opportunities to raise awareness of the office. As time progresses she will also assist with housing investigations.
- b. The office is currently working on a job posting to hire an investigator in connection with a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The

grant is to enforce housing discrimination rights for people in the deaf or hard of hearing community.

- c. EE/FHO staff conducted a stakeholder meeting relative to how we can improve the City's score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. A summary from the meeting and a recommendation was presented to Mayor and Council by Mark Washington, HR and Civil Service Director, along with estimations on the expected costs.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Council Resolution No. 2014-0828 related to Gender-Neutral Signage for single-Occupancy Bathrooms.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm without objection.