



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 26, 2015

5:30 – 6:40 pm in City Hall Council Chambers

6:40 pm to adjournment in Room 1027

301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701

Chair Sara Clark called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Sara Clark, Chair

Lauren Guilbeaux

Will Krueger, Vice Chair

Paul Rhea

Elizabeth Brenner

Judy Cortez

Human Resources Department Staff Present:

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

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

No citizen communications.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 24, 2014 regular meeting were approved on a 6-0 vote with changes; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Brenner seconded; Commissioner Lofton absent.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. OLD BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation, public comment and discussion related to Austin Police Department training and policies concerning racial profiling, cultural sensitivity, and use of force.

- i. APD Assistant Chief Brian Manley, Commander Andrew Michael and Lieutenant David New gave a presentation on the Austin Police Department's training on the use of force and cultural sensitivity to the populations that APD serves.
- ii. Many citizens spoke of their experiences in the city and they described their distrust and fear of Austin police officers, their experiences of intimidation and a lack of Police awareness and consideration that a large percentage of the citizens of Austin are afraid of their cops. They also spoke of the comments made by Police Chief, Art Acevedo that insinuated that community incidents with police officers occurred as the result of bad parenting.
- iii. A workgroup was created consisting of Commissioners Cortez, Rhea and Clark.

6. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The status of the Commission's goals and objectives for 2015.
 - i. Increase Community Awareness of and Involvement with the Human Rights Commission
 - ii. Increase Focus on Follow-Through
 - iii. Create a Plan for 10-1 Commission Transition and Diversity
 - iv. Continue collaboration with the Austin Police Department and other City bodies to address human rights issues, including racism and discrimination
 - v. Continue to address affordability issues in the City of Austin
 - vi. Continue to address challenges facing people with disabilities in the City of Austin

7. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. The source of income amendment remains under stay by the federal court. Hearing concluded today and we expect a ruling in two weeks.
- b. We are doing outreach events in the community to raise awareness of the office.
- c. We are currently interviewing for a temporary grant-funded position.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Discussion and possible action related to APD training and policies concerning racial profiling, cultural sensitivity, and use of force.
- b. Transition plan.
- c. Undoing Racism training

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm without objection.