



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, February 27, 2017**

The Human Rights Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 301 West Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Sareta Davis called the Board Meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Davis, Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Avashia, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Buls, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Miguez, and Commissioner Normand.

Staff in Attendance:

Gail McCant, Administrator, Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EE/FHO), Human Resources Department (HRD)

Jonathan Babiak, Business Process Consultant, EE/FHO, HRD

Andrea Jordan, Administrative Assistant, EE/FHO, HRD

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

David Harrienger addressed the Commission on Trump, Russia, and human rights and impact on Austin.

Chris McIlvain, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department addressed the Commission.

Chris Masey, Mayor's Committee for People With Disabilities, addressed the Commission.

Jonathan Davis, Measure Austin, addressed the Commission on transparency and accountability.

Nelson Linder, NAACP, addressed the Commission on Texas Penal Code §9.51 and Title 18 of the United States Code, §242.

Reggie James addressed the Commission on policy procedures, mental illness, and deadly force.

Mary Elizabeth, Austin Justice Coalition, addressed the Commission on policy procedure and deadly force.

Mandy Blott, Austin Justice Coalition, addressed the Commission on de-escalation and use of minimum necessary force.

Cindy Gibson, Disability Rights Texas, addressed the commission on de-escalation and use of force.

Asante Todd, Professor of Christian Ethics, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Associate Minister, David Chapel Baptist Church, addressed the Commission on demilitarization of the police force and police culture.

Chas Moore, Austin Justice Coalition, addressed the commission on police use of force.

Kathy Mitchell, Austin Justice Coalition, addressed the Commission on de-escalation and proportionate response.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting of January 23, 2017 were approved on a vote of 8-0: Commissioner Brown motion, Chair Davis second. Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Royall, and Commissioner Yang absent.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Davis announced that Commission members would attend a CodeNEXT meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to negotiate changes to the Austin Police Department's Use of Force/Response to Resistance Policy.
(Normand/Caballero)

Commissioner Normand read the draft recommendation. The Commission discussed this item. Commissioner Avashia offered a friendly amendment: "persons with disabilities, including but not limited to mental illness, substance use disorders, and cognitive or developmental impairments." Commissioner Normand accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Miguez offered a friendly amendment: "including but not limited to advocacy groups, community groups, individuals and families impacted by use of force issues, and any other individuals or groups possessing expertise in issues pertaining to use of force policies and their effect on public welfare" and define that as "Relevant stakeholders." Commissioner Normand accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Brown moved for adoption as amended. Commissioner Avashia seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the recommendation passed on a vote of 8-0, with Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Royall, and Commissioner Yang absent. After a brief recess, Chair Davis reopened discussion of this item. Commissioner Normand moved to remove a reference to Measure Austin from the recommendation. Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0 with Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Royall, and Commissioner Yang absent.

- b. Presentation by Paul Huddleston, and discussion and possible action regarding a proposal for an LGBTQ Cultural Center in Austin. (Davis/Caballero)

Paul Huddleston, President, Austin LGBTQ Center, made a presentation to the Commission. The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The Commission discussed the following goals and objectives for 2016-2017:
 - i. Community Engagement
 - ii. Best Practices
 - iii. Disparate Access
 - iv. Continued Engagement with the Austin Police Department
 - v. Address Community Issues Specific to Race, Policing, and Criminal Justice

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m. on unanimous consent.