

Orange County Human Relations Commission

1300 S. Grand, Bldg. B, Santa Ana

7:00 PM, Thursday, February 11, 2016

MINUTES

At 6:45pm Melisa Montaño-Ochoa, OC Human Relations BRIDGES Program Staff made a Special Presentation on Restorative Justice programs offered by OC Human Relations.

1. The general meeting of the Commission was called to order by Chair Ken Inouye at 7:15pm following the special presentation.

PRESENT: Ken Inouye, Nadia Bettendorf, Chief Mike Hamel, Tim Kowal, Elliott Singer, Sean Thomas, Bill Wood. ABSENT: Becky Esparza, Bekele Demissie, Bang Van Pham, Rabbi Rick Steinberg.

STAFF: Alison Edwards, Rusty Kennedy. GUEST: Sharlene Mitchell

2. M/S/C to approve the Commission minutes of 1.14.16.

OPEN FORUM:

Sharlene Mitchell addressed the Commission asking for help dealing with an incident that happened earlier today. At the El Toro High School Basketball game with San Juan Hills High School, her son was verbally taunted by a White student on the opposing team who called him a "Nigger". Her son punched the boy and he fell to the ground. He was kicked out of the game, and his coach, from El Toro High berated him loudly in front of all assembled, without asking what had happened. The boy who hurled the racial epithet was not initially removed, but stayed in the audience with his father. The San Juan Hills coach subsequently sought out the African American student and apologized for what had occurred. The mother indicated that what her son did was wrong, BUT feels the El Toro coach handled it poorly, reprimanding him and ejecting him publically without even asking what had happened. She asked for help from the Commission. Commission staff, Alison Edwards, counseled the parent and offered to assist in helping to resolve the conflict.

3. Commissioner Thomas reported the results of the AWARDS 45 selection process and it was M/S/C to approve honorees: Michelle Evans, Jan Meslin, ABC Core Team Leaders, Steve Kim, Gurpreet and Bicky Singh, Scott Larson, Officer Juan Munoz, Loara High School. The business award is open till 2/25.
4. City Council Annual Report Visits were reported on, scheduled and coordinated.
5. Chief Hamel reviewed the Mosque & Gurdwara Visits that the Commission had completed and reported that he, other commissioners and HRC staff were planning to visit the Irvine Mosque on February 19.
6. Commissioner Inouye reported on the plans to convene Muslim/Arab/Interfaith Orgs on 3/3 to provide support and coordination of educational efforts in the wake of the San Bernardino terrorist attack.
7. Staff reported on the progress of the Sheriff's Interfaith Council that the Commission is assisting Sheriff Hutchens in assembling, structuring and leading.
8. Staff presented initial ideas on a Leadership Succession Plan and solicited Commissioner insights and suggestions for successful succession planning.
9. Alison Edwards presented the progress of the Strategic Planning process including committees focusing on: Critical Response, Fund Development, and Vision and values.
10. Commissioner Kowal reviewed various articles and info on human relations issues.
11. Commissioner Chief Hamel shared insight into the thinking among law enforcement leaders about the post Prop. 47 crime rates that are going up. He said that while some feel it is because of the release of prisoners early under Prop. 47, while others are awaiting academic review of data that may tell a different story. He said while crime was up this year, it remained very low in comparison with previous years. Commission Hamel asked if Commissioners would serve on a Command College committee to discuss implicit bias for Commander Bill Weiland. Commissioners Inouye, Thomas as well as Rusty Kennedy offered to participate, schedule permitting.
12. The monthly summary of activities was attached for information.
13. Commission Chair Inouye asked that progress reports be brought to the next Commission meeting on the Police Oversight issue with the County of Orange, and the Homeless Shelter issue.
Commissioner Inouye also announced that the SELANACO Chapter of the JACL would be holding their 50th anniversary on May 22 in Cerritos.
14. The Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.