

## **Orange County Human Relations Commission**

1300 S. Grand, Bldg. B, Santa Ana

7:00 PM, Thursday, April 14, 2016

### **MINUTES**

1. The general meeting of the Commission was called to order by Chair Ken Inouye at 7:30pm following the AWARDS 45 Honorees Reception.  
PRESENT: Ken Inouye, Elliott Singer, Sean Thomas, Chief Mike Hamel, Becky Esparza, Bekele Demissie, Nadia Bettendorf, Bang Van Pham ABSENT: Rabbi Rick Steinberg, Bill Wood, Tim Kowal  
STAFF: Alison Edwards, Rusty Kennedy.
2. M/S/C to approve the Commission minutes of 3.10.16
3. Commissioners gave updates on City Council visits, Commissioner Thomas reported that he was contacted by the Mayor Pro Tem of Laguna Woods regarding women, in particular, who have been victims of various scams. Chief Hamel was willing to follow-up with the issue. Rusty reported that 2-3 additional cities paid dues this year.
4. Commissioner Bettendorf reported on the convening of Muslim/Arab/Interfaith Organizations including the idea to provide restorative circles training to the interfaith community. Commissioners voted in favor of using staff time to develop and deliver the training. Rusty Kennedy reported on the Convening of Muslim, Arab and Interfaith organizations.
5. Commissioners reported on 13 Mosque visits, Commissioner Hamel reported that his department has consistent contact with the local Muslim community and that it is very important in establishing positive police-community relations.
6. Commissioners discussed how to address hateful rhetoric in this election year. After much discussion, there was not agreement on how to proceed, staff was asked to consider options and report back.
7. Rusty Kennedy shared that the Sheriff's Interfaith Advisory Board met in March and has recruited more members.
8. Alison Edwards reported that staff is arranging circles at El Toro High School as follow-up to the incident reported to the Commission in January.
9. Alison Edwards reported on the "Its Your Space, Use It!" Campaign in the ABC Neighborhood. Over 75 residents attended and it was reported on by Excelsior.
10. Commissioner Thomas gave a report on the Mediation Conference, he was impressed by the power of the event, which focused on restorative justice and asked whether the event can be documented in the future.
11. Alison Edwards reminded everyone that at Strategic Planning Session is planned for May 12<sup>th</sup>.
12. Commissioner Inouye adjourned the meeting.