

Orange County Human Relations Commission

1300 S. Grand, Bldg. B, Santa Ana

7:00 PM, Thursday, July 14, 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT: Becky Esparza, Rabbi Rick Steinberg, Elliot Singer, Tim Kowal, Sean Thomas, Chief Mike Hamel, Bill Wood

ABSENT: Bekele Demissie, Chiarina Piazza, Ken Inouye

STAFF: Alison Edwards, Rusty Kennedy, Melissa Morgan

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:22pm by the Vice-Chair
2. Guests from Supervisor Steele's staff were introduced
3. M/S/C to approve the minutes

ACTION ITEMS

4. M/S/C to approve nominees for the new officers: Chair Becky Esparza, Vice-Chair Rabbi Rick Steinberg
5. Vice Chair Esparza reported on the Commission's response to the events of the previous week including prominent officer-involved shootings in Baton Rouge and St. Paul and the killing of police officers in Dallas. The Commission hosted a community dialogue on 7/12. The Vice-Chair reported that many were moved and shared on a very personal level. Commissioners discussed possible next steps including:
 - a. police-community dialogue
 - b. advocating for Fair and Impartial Policing, Police Legitimacy, and Procedural Justice Training
 - c. study of local community policing and models that are working

Chief Hamel announced that his department is partnering with AME COR in Irvine to host an event that promotes peace and solidarity. Staff shared that Supervisor Spitzer offered to be involved in future events.

6. Vice-Chair Esparza reported the contract to staff the Human Relations Commission was approved for the OC Human Relations Council for this fiscal year at the same rate, but will go out to bid next year.
7. Commissioner Thomas reported on the Commission's response to the attacks in Orlando, which included an official statement, attendance and speakers at vigils, outreach to the Gay and Lesbian Center, healing circles for the Transgender Community and an op-ed article.
8. Commissioner Steinberg asked that the Commission send our condolences to the Dallas Police Department and the DART. Commissioner Steinberg then moved that Commissioners send cards to local Chiefs of Police to thank them for their service, as assigned by staff. Commissioners approved the motion.
9. Commissioner Steinberg shared information about the training on restorative circles on July 27&28.
10. M/S/C to approve the draft statement on support for Ethnic Studies as reviewed by Commissioner Wood
11. Staff presented priority issues to be considered during the year. Rabbi Steinberg asked that the Commission examine how the Commission can make statements more rapidly, how to notify Commissioners of events etc. by more than email when time is short. Commissioner Wood moved that the Commission meet again at the LGBT Center in the near future. The Commissioners approved the motion.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. Commissioner Singer invited everyone to attend the release of the Annual Hate Crime Report on 8/4.
13. Vice-Chair Esparza reminded Commissioners that there are two openings on the Commission. Commissioner Thomas asked that Commissioner Bettendorf be honored for her years of service.
14. Chief Hamel reported on a pilot project in the OCSO to carry Narcan that just finished. It has positive outcomes and will most likely spread to more departments.
15. Staff shared that the Commission was asked to partner on a Summit on Race with the Health Care Agency.
16. Vice-Chair Esparza adjourned the meeting at 9:04pm in memory of recent victims of violence