

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES  
Meeting of 9 January 2001  
Conference Room A,  
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by Joe Giovannetti, Chair, at 7:05 p.m.

**A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests**

Present: Giovannetti, Schimps, Lyons, Shaffer, Eastman, Shulman, Miller, Graebner, Taylor, Jewell and Botzler

Excused Absence: Keele, Shoffner, deLeon. Guests: 2

**B. Approval of Minutes**

Shulman moved (Shaffer seconded) to approve the 12 December minutes as corrected. Passed unanimously.

**C. Public Comment.**

One guest reported that a complaint is being filed against the County Juvenile Hall. He also noted that a Crisis Intervention Training Session is being developed for law enforcement programs; it was agreed to have discussion of this item be placed on the next agenda.

**D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls**

1. Giovannetti received a packet of complaints alleging nonresponsiveness from law enforcement offices in southern Humboldt County. This issue will be referred to the Commission's Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM).

2. Miller received a call from a Green Party representative inquiring about the neutral observers.

3. Taylor received numerous phone calls requesting assistance from the neutral observer program. It was noted that the Mattole Forest Defenders publication lists the Commission as a contact regarding alleged police violence against activists.

4. Botzler received one complaint against the Arcata Police Department and is working with the individual to resolve the concerns.

5. Shaffer noted that the Humboldt State University Multicultural Center is holding its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Diversity Conference on March 2 and 3 on the HSU Campus

6. The American Civil Liberties Union mailed a statement to the Commission entitled "Police Misconduct – What to Do."

7. Shaffer was informed of a name-calling incident at a local community school.

**E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports**

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM)

a. Miller reported that there was no December meeting; the next meeting will be 23 January at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse Conference Room A.

2. Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH)

a. No report.

3. Outreach and Education Committee - Giovannetti

a. Giovannetti noted that the Faculty Needs Assessment survey to County school principals and superintendents will be sent out this coming week.

b. Giovannetti will confirm the Commission's involvement with the HSU Multicultural Center Diversity Conference in March. The Outreach and Education Committee will recommend the topics and presenters for the Commission's contributions to Conference at the February meeting.

c. Lyons reported that he, Giovannetti, Shaffer, Keele, and Jewell will meet with the College of the Redwoods' Director of Student Development regarding some acts of discrimination, including a threat made against a faculty member.

- d. The Youth Educating Against Homophobia Workshop is scheduled for April 10, 8 a.m. to 12 noon in the front boardroom of the County Office of Education. Refreshments for the workshop will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.
  - e. Eastman reported that Human Rights Month proclamations were received from the County Board of Supervisors, the Cities of Eureka, Arcata, and Rio Dell, as well as Table Bluff Reservation and the Yurok Tribe. Trinidad also will be sending one to the Commission.
4. Finance: The treasury still holds \$112.77
  5. Neutral Observers – Shulman
    - a. The time of the Board of Supervisor discussion the neutral observer issue has been moved several times and currently is scheduled for the 23 January meeting; 25 minutes will be reserved to discuss the four options considered at the December 2000 meeting, and the Commission's recommendation. Shulman will meet with Supervisor Smith to summarize a chronology of the issue. Supervisor Woolley may meet with the Sheriff's Department to address possible concerns about the neutral observer program within the Sheriff's Department.
    - b. There is no word yet from Senator Chesbro's office regarding the role of the neutral observer program in his legislative program for this year.
  6. Community for Common Ground (CCG) – No report
  7. Other Committees and Liaisons: There were no other reports from committees or liaisons.

#### **F. Unfinished Business**

1. One Commissioner had a Wednesday commitment and the decision was made to retain the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month as the regular meeting date. After further discussion, it was proposed that a change to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday would again be considered after May.
2. The principal of a high school involved in a discrimination incident earlier this year will address the issue at the Easter Board Retreat and also will resend a letter of explanation that had not been received by the Commission.

#### **G. New Business**

1. Commissioners were encouraged to keep notes of each phone call received on the Commission answering machine.

#### **H. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (Shulman moved, Lyons seconded). The next meeting will be Tuesday, 13 February 2001, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Botzler, Secretary