

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 11 September 2001

Conference Room A,

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Larry Miller called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### **A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests**

Present: Shaffer, Eastman, Schimps, Keele, Miller, Jewell, Graebner, Botzler

Excused absence: deLeon

Unexcused absence: Shoffner, Taylor, Lyons

Guests: 4

### **B. Approval of Minutes**

Eastman moved (Jewell seconded) approval of the 14 August minutes as corrected. Corrections included Shaffer's absence, and two changes in Section :, the "panel of homophobia" should read "panel on homophobia" and "Also changes were approved" should read "All changes were approved."

### **C. Public Comment**

Three guests expressed interest in learning about the workings of the HRC and one guest expressed concern about possible health and safety issues at a local industrial plant.

### **D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls**

1. Eastman received 4 calls on the HRC phone. One was a call for another commissioner, one was a request for information about the next meeting and two callers left no message.
2. Shaffer reported a case about a teacher being dismissed at a local school that may have elements of discrimination. The HRC may be getting a letter or call by the affected party. Shaffer also received notice of a publication, "Harassment –What to do if it happens to you," from The Prejudice Institute, Baltimore, Maryland.
3. Jewell followed up with the concern of a guest at the August meeting who claimed that he had been treated with a lack of due process and respect by two judges. He was referred to the California Judicial Council.
4. Schimps received 7 calls on the HRC phone. One was a request about the HRC website (none available). One regarded a disability related firing and was referred to Redwood Legal Services and J. Hogue. One caller expressed concern about debris left in alleys by homeless people. Another had a housing problem and was referred to Redwood Legal Services. A caller concerned about possible unsanitary practices at a local restaurant was referred to the County Health Department. A caller expressing concern about non-English speaking citizens dealing with an insurance claim was referred to Redwood Legal Services. And one anonymous caller concerned about a neighbor keeping wild raccoons was referred to California Department of Fish & Game. Schimps also discussed the Courthouse ramp with J. Hogue. Hogue believes the ramp still is in violation of the American Disabilities Act. Schimps will request a copy of the appropriate regulations from Hogue for further discussions with the County, if necessary.

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

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (Jewell)  
No specific new information to report
2. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer).
  - a. Since the Committee is not a distinct entity, Shaffer will facilitate discussions of Outreach and Education Matters at each meeting.
  - b. David Orphal would be willing to hold another panel on homophobia in the local schools and this will be discussed at the next meeting
  - c. December is Human Rights month and plans will be made at the October meeting.
  - d. Shaffer raised the issue if the HRC should hold a press conference or make a press release in response to the tragic deaths associated with the terrorist actions of the day. He will draft a statement and transmit it to Miller and Botzler for review
  - e. Shaffer noted that there were few issues of direct concern to human rights in the current Humboldt County Office of Education's Professional Development Opportunities. As part of future Outreach and Education plans, the suggestion was made to encourage greater concern for human rights issues at the State Superintendent's office. Shaffer will make some inquiries
3. Finance (Keele) – After opening the envelope, the HRC was surprised to find that the balance remains at \$112.77

4. Community for Common Ground (Botzler).  
No new information
5. For Whom the Bells Toll (Botzler)  
The group continues to be active at one McKinleyville church.

**F. Unfinished Business**

1. Miller, Lyons, and Keele have expressed interest to the Supervisors in continuing as Commissioners.
2. The revised HRC roster was distributed with last months minutes

**G. New Business**

1. Miller provided a draft of the Annual Report for the Supervisors, and requested that all responses be received before 28 September 2001.

**H. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8 October 2001, 6:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary