

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 12 September 2005
Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka California

Chair Byrd Lochtie called the meeting to order at 6:00.

A. Attendance and Guests

Members present: Filar, Lochtie, Botzler, Shaeffer, Aziz, Miller, Rubin, Orr, Shaffer, Lyons, Ward.

Members absent: Tharp (excused); Cernohlavek (excused).

There were five guests.

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from August 2005 meeting were approved with one abstention (Rubin). (Botzler/Filar)

C. Public Comment

1. A guest complained that she is being harassed by her neighbor, city councilman Mike Jones, because she filed a complaint against Jones with the Fire Marshall. She claims that Jones' family has been abusive and threatening toward her and has directed anti-gay comments toward her. She asked that the Commission issue a public statement to the effect that Jones' behavior is inappropriate. The Commission formed a committee to investigate the possibility of such a statement; the committee members are Miller, Aziz, and Orr. The committee will report in October (moved to October agenda).
2. A guest complained that she was wrongly deemed 5150 (severely disabled) by a doctor at Mad River Hospital and was given a pelvic exam and held in a psychiatric ward against her will. She asked the Commission to conduct an inquiry into the legality of the doctor's behavior. The Commission formed a committee to investigate and make recommendations. The committee members are Aziz, Rubin and Ward. The committee will report in October (moved to October agenda).

D. Correspondence Reports

a. Phone Line Reports

1. Shaeffer summary of calls(9/1-9/14): A person called to speak to Mike Orr; the message was relayed. A person called to ask about the rights of the homeless. There was no answer upon returning her call (twice). A man who called during Jack Shaffer's duties called back to report that he found a place to live and to thank Jack for helping him. A person called to complain about mistreatment by the Humboldt State University Police. I gave him the number for the local ACLU and for Legal Services of Northern California. A person called to claim that she was blackballed by a local senior-care facility. She left no return number. A person representing Communities for Peace called to ask if the Commission had any members that might be willing to serve as peacekeepers for the Peace Rally at the Eureka County Courthouse September 24. I gave her Jack Munsee's number on advice from Larry Miller and Rick Botzler. A person called to complain that a local mechanic has been in possession of her car for 2 1/2 hours and will not return it. There was no answer when I returned her call (twice). A person called to complain that a local businessperson considers her a "class C" citizen and denied her credit on that basis. A person called to confirm the time and date of the September HRC meeting. A person called to complain that his ex-wife was living with a man whom he believed might be molesting his daughter.
2. M. Orr Summary of Calls (9/16-9/30): Two persons called wanting general information about the HRC; I told them about the website and public meetings. A person called to complain that her landlord refuses to take care of the mold in her apartment; I gave her the number for Legal Services of Northern California. A person called to complain that his landlord refuses to return his security deposit; I gave him the number for Legal Services of Northern California.

b. Other Contacts

Miller reported that a person contacted him wanting to know if she could get more

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

- a. *Finance* (Shaffer).
- b. *Law Enforcement* (Miller).
- c. *Independent Observers Program*
- d. *Outreach and Education* (Shaffer / Shaeffer).
- e. *Website* (Miller).

F. Unfinished Business

- G. New Business

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 11, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka CA.