

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

DRAFT

Meeting of 11 January 2005

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Vice-chair Byrd Lochtie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Lochtie, Filar, Aziz, Lyons, Miller, J. Shaffer, and Botzler

Excused absence: Tharp, B. Shaeffer Unexcused absence: None Guests: 3

The resignation of K. Stein was acknowledged

B. Approval of Minutes

Filar moved (Aziz seconded) that 14 December 2004 minutes be accepted with two minor corrections. Passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment

1. Christina Allbright, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) announced that the ACLU was sponsoring an Arcata City Council Forum on 15 December. In addition, the ACLU annual meeting would be held on 29 January at the Golden Harvest Café, Arcata with a showing of the movie, "Unconstitutional."

D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

1. Phone line reports
 - a. J. Shaffer reported two calls. One was a message regarding a complaint about a law enforcement agency, but the caller could not be reached on subsequent return calls. He also received a call from Nicole Gans, Domestic Violence Prevention Program, with a request to receive Commission minutes. Botzler will e-mail them to her.
 - b. Aziz reported five calls. A Fortuna man reported harassment by helicopters flying overhead and by local police; he did not request action but wished the Commission to be informed. A single-father from Eureka complained about having to rent two rooms because the configuration of rooms at his apartment complex could lead to adjoining apartments being disturbed by his young son crying at night. An inquiry to the apartment manager resulted in the explanation of their policy that a separate room was required for each resident, independent of age. A disabled Eureka woman complained that she was being forced out of her current apartment before her new apartment was available for occupancy; the complainant could not be reached on subsequent return calls. A woman caller reported the pepper spraying of an acquaintance by police; the complainant could not be reached on subsequent return calls. One caller inquired about the time and location of the Commission meeting and was provided the information.
 - c. Lyons reported three calls. One caller requested information about the coming Commission meeting as was given the information. One caller requested a call back without disclosing the reason for his call: he could not be reached on the return calls. One woman inquired about an alleged pepper spray incident.
 - d. J. Shaffer reported several calls and announcements. One call was from one of last month's guests interested in the California State University "at-will-agreements" to say he was unable to attend the coming meeting. Also, several human rights-related videos have been added to Humboldt State University's (HSU's) video collection. He also reported several cases of anti-Semitic actions directed at Temple Beth-El in Eureka. He noted that the Journal of Social Issues has an article on discrimination against mothers. He also reported that Jefferson Public Radio Bulletin had an article on dental vans serving outlying and poor areas.
 - e. Aziz encouraged the Commission supporting more inter-faith dialogues. He announced that a panel discussion on religion, spirituality, and homosexuality will be held among HSU students on 26 January on the HSU campus.
2. Phone list for coming weeks.

B. Shaeffer	16 to 31 January
Lochtie	1 to 14 February
Miller	15 to 28 February
Filar	1 to 15 March
	16 to 31 March
	1 to 15 April
	16 to 30 April

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Finance (J. Shaffer). There is no change in Commission finances; \$1150.32 is in treasury
2. Law Enforcement Matters
 - a. Miller reported that consistent phone intake categories need to be established for the phone lines to clearly identify the proportion comprising law enforcement-related calls. He will provide a proposed list for the February meeting.
3. Independent Observer Program. Miller reported no new information. The next meeting will be 20 January at noon in Eureka.
4. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer)
 - a. Botzler had no new information about the revised Visitor Orientation Information handout and will distribute it at the next meeting.
5. a. J. Shaffer distributed a revised proposed Calendar of Coming Events

Month	Activity/Event
Jan/Feb.	Possible participation in North Coast Education Summit, HSU. Commission retreat Announcements for County Schools
March	Possible participation in HSU Multicultural Center Diversity Conference Police liaison contacts
April	No specific activities identified
May	Nominations of Commission officers
June	Police liaison contacts Commission review of annual report draft Announcements for County Schools
July	Submit annual report to Supervisors Election of officers for the coming July through June year.
August	Planning for involvement in HSU Dialogue on Race
September	Police liaison contacts Announcement for County Schools
October	Possible participation in the HSU Dialogue on Race Planning Human Rights Month Activities
November	Plan Commission retreat for January Plan for North Coast Education Summit meeting in January
December	Human Rights Month activities Police liaison contacts Plan for HSU Multicultural Center Diversity Conference in March

- b. No report on HSU's Diversity Conference. The topic will be considered next month

F. Unfinished Business

1. There was no additional information on the new public service announcements, and the matter will be referred to next month.
2. Goals for outreach activities (J. Shaffer/B. Shaeffer) were addressed and will be considered again in February
 - a. Three goals proposed for outreach activities include:
 - To educate the public by providing information and perspectives congruent with the purposes of the commission with an emphasis on local issues.
 - To publicize the work of the commission
 - To recruit new members
 - b. Tharp and B. Shaeffer will pursue the development of a periodic column in the media on human rights matters.
3. The issue of same-sex marriage will be moved to next month's agenda.
4. Tharp and will the contact the HSU Multicultural Center to request a time slot at the Diversity Conference.
5. There was no new information on the law enforcement committee.
6. No further updates on finding a new intern.
7. Miller will oversee the Commission brochure revision
8. No other updates

G. New Business

1. There was no new information available about the establishment of a toll-free Commission telephone number.
2. A local superintendent was contacted about the availability of shelters for children waiting for school buses in inclement weather; the superintendent reported that little could be done at the current time. There was some information that the Serenity Inn was seeking funding for a temporary shelter for these children.
3. After some discussion on the matter of California State university "at-will-agreements," it was decided that an agency versed in dealing with labor laws would be a more important resource. J. Shaffer will call the California Fair Employment and Housing Agency to inquire on the best resource to further address this issue.
4. Aziz, Lyons, J. Shaffer, and Botzler agreed to further pursue participation at next year's North Coast Education Summit at HSU.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned 8:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8 February 2005, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary