

**Minutes
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
March 8, 2005.**

Members present: A. Aziz, L. Miller, J. Tharp, M. Filar, B. Lotchie, B. Shaeffer.

Members absent: J. Lyons (excused), J. Shaffer (excused), R. Botzler(excused) Orr (excused).

The minutes from February 8 2005 were approved unanimously (Filar/Tharp).

Public Comment: A man reported that he was the victim of an anti-homosexual hate crime in Arcata on 2-17-05.

Phone Calls /Contacts: Miller reported one call from Fred Percy of the California Association of Human Relations Organizations. Percy wanted the Commission's e-mail contact information. Filar reported one contact wanting to know whether the HRC would have a table at the March 19th Peace March. Tharp reported that a man complained about a hate crime and that the police were unresponsive. She recommended the person to Lambda Defense.

Filar distributed the HRC Phone Call Procedure Form and a sample of the Statement of Economic Interests Form 700. The form should be filled out by every commissioner by 4-1-05. Filar reported a contact asking if we had literature in Spanish.

Law Enforcement: Miller reported on law enforcement matters. The Commission needs liaisons for local police departments; at the moment the Commission has liaisons for Eureka PD (Miller) Arcata PD (Botzler) and Blue Lake PD (Miller) only.

Old Business: Lotchie distributed the Visitor Orientation Form.

The Resolution in Support of Same-Sex Marriage was distributed and discussed. The Commission decided unanimously (Shaeffer/Filar) to recommend the Resolution to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. It was decided to move the discussion about the strategy for presenting the Resolution to the Board of Supervisors to the April agenda.

The Commission decided to consider offering hate-crime sensitivity training for police officers and officer trainees. The topic was moved to the April agenda.

The Commission viewed a series of public service announcements. Filar will present the videos to the local NBC affiliate for airing.

Shaeffer presented the Commission with a draft of a letter to be sent to local media describing the Human Rights Commission and its purpose. The Commission decided unanimously (Tharp/Filar) to send an amended version of the letter to all local print media outlets.

Tharp reported that the Business and Information Systems departments at Humboldt State University may be able to provide intern candidates for this summer. Tharp will follow up.

The at-will employment issue was moved to the April agenda because J. Shaffer was absent.

Christina Allbright of the American Civil Liberties Union suggested inviting to the April meeting a speaker from Legal Services of Northern California. The speaker was placed on the April agenda.

Lotchie reported on the annual report to the Board of Supervisors. A copy of the report was sent to Patty Berg as well.

Miller reported on the website. Miller met with Greg Gear who was able to provide e-mail access. The e-mail address is info@humboldthumanrights.org. The minutes and agendas from past meetings are not being posted because the County's program is incompatible with the website. The priorities for the website are (1) posting agendas for upcoming meetings (2) posting past agendas (3) redesigning the site itself.

Miller reported that the toll free telephone number is still not available. Further discussion was moved to the April agenda.

The Commission discussed the information packet for new members. Suggestions for what should be included in the packet should be sent to Botzler.

Miller distributed a call-tracking form to be used in conjunction with the Procedure Form.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
B. Shaeffer**