

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission  
Meeting of September 11, 2007  
6 p.m. Conference Room A  
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Altschuler, Botzler, Brake-Mills, Lochtie, Lyons, Miller, Munsee, Sanders, Shaffer, Tillinghast

Guests: There were four guests present.

Absent: Tharp

B. Minutes

The minutes were approved as corrected.

C. Public Comment

A guest brought before The Commission the information that there is a great deal of concern in the community right now with the behavior of law enforcement officers as they have dealt with recent incidents. His concern was that the public is not being kept informed about these incidents and the investigations of them. He asked if The Commission can do something to help the community be better informed.

Christina Allbright of The ACLU reported that The ACLU Patriot Award this year will be awarded to Carolyn Crnich of The Election Advisory Committee. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of The ACLU on October 27, at The Red Lion Hotel. Christina also announced that The Coalition for Police Review will meet tomorrow, September 12, at 5:30.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

Altschuler reported having dealt with five phone calls. One caller wanted a copy of Miller's facilities report. The Times-Standard called to inquire about the involvement of The Commission in the formation of a police review board. The caller was referred to Botzler for information. A woman called about child support services, but was not able to make contact with a commissioner. Altschuler left a message for her. Two people called regarding mental health issues. One commented on the approach used by volunteers on the crisis hotline and called for more training for these people. Another complained about the lack of privacy and confidentiality for people in the holding room on the third floor of the jail. Altschuler will look into this situation. A man in the midst of divorce proceedings was referred to The Bar Association for help.

Tillinghast reported a call reporting a man who was calling himself a deputy sheriff and carrying a gun. Tillinghast will follow up on this with the sheriff.

Shaffer answered three calls for Sanders. One was from a woman concerned about the purchase of a toxic house. She was referred to legal services. Sanders also handled two calls.

Phone List For Coming Weeks

Lyons	September 16 -30
Brake-Mills	October 1 – 15
Miller	October 16 -31
Loctie	November 1- 15
Altschuler	November 16 – 30
Lyons	December 1 – 15

Contacts

Miller and Lochtie reported having represented The Commission at The Volunteer Agency Fair at HSU.

Tharp left notices with Botzler about vigils being held throughout the country the week of October 7 – 13 by straight supporters of gay rights.

Tillinghast announced a gathering on September 30 of members of local faith communities to discuss social action. He also noted that December, 2008, will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The International Declaration of Human Rights. He suggested that we begin now to develop a program marking the anniversary and suggested that we do something involving the schools of our community. He will chair a committee to develop such a program. Altschuler, Brake-Mills, and Shaffer will work on the committee.

Botzler announced the Campus Dialogue on Race to be held on the campus November 1 – 9. The Commission agreed to participate and to present the Sticks and Stones workshop. Lochtie will chair the committee. Botzler will submit a proposal to HSU and will arrange a meeting of the committee. Miller and Lyons will also serve on this committee.

E Committees, Liaison, and Case Reports

Finance – Shaffer said that the new banner cost \$82.60. We have a balance now of \$852.72.

Law Enforcement (Miller) - No report

Outreach and Education – Altschuler reported that he has reserved a table for the Pride Festival to be held on the Arcata Plaza on September 30. He will represent The Commission and disseminate our materials. Brake-Mills will assist him.

Website (Munsee) - The website is up to date. Munsee will send a copy of the annual report to the webmaster.

Internships – (Tharp/Mond) Mond continues to seek information from various other commissions regarding their functioning. Mond will contact Allbright to work with her to research police review boards throughout California. Tillinghast referred Mond to Betsy Watson at HSU who has already done research of this nature.

Event Calendar – (Shaffer/Munsee) Lochtie suggested that we remind various municipalities and governmental organizations that December is Human Rights Month and encourage them to issue proclamations recognizing the designation and supporting human rights. Altschuler will contact Ferndale city government. Botzler will make the other contacts. A guest announced that NACOLE is having its annual convention in San Jose on September 28. She suggested that this will be a good opportunity to learn more about the police review process.

#### F. Unfinished Business

##### Citizen Law Enforcement Review Board (Botzler/Lochtie/Miller/Sanders)

Botzler reminded The Commission that the supervisors had asked us to conduct a survey of the 18 existing California review boards to determine how they are dealing with legal issues related to their composition and function and to consider organizing an educational forum to explore the role of citizens in serving in advisory capacities to governmental agencies.

##### Educational Forum

Lochtie reported having arranged for the use of the county ag building on September 26, from 7:00 p.m until 9:00 p.m. She also contacted The League of Women Voters. The League is willing to provide a facilitator with the understanding that the panel will be conducted according to parameters set by The League. Sanders has contacted various representatives of advisory committees from the community to serve as panelists that evening. Among those are Rex Bohn of The Eureka Public Safety Committee, Bonnie Neely of The Board of Supervisors, someone from the Mental Health Review Board, and someone from The Human Rights Commission. The Commission agreed to invite a representative from The Election Advisory Board. Sanders will make that contact. Altschuler made a motion that The Commission move forward with the forum to be held on Wednesday, September 26, and arrange to have a facilitator from The League of Women Voters. Sanders seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Sanders, Lochtie, and Altschuler will prepare a public service announcement about the forum. Botzler will notify The Board of Supervisors and will contact the media.

##### Recruitment of Commissioners

Brake-Mills suggested contacting various service organizations in the community to tell them of the existence of The Human Rights Commission and its purpose in serving the community.

##### Interim Secretary

Sanders will serve as secretary during Munsee's absence.

##### Banner

Lochtie displayed the new banner.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Munsee, Secretary

