

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of March 4, 2010
5:00 pm Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

Present: Altschuler, Lochtie, Miller, Pereira, Sanders, Shelter
Absent: Adame, Brake-Mills, Heise, Herbelin, Munsee, Seidner
Guests: Mike Downey, Under Sheriff Humboldt Co

B. Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

C. Public Comment

Mike Downey, who is running for Sheriff, spoke to the Commissioners about himself, his career and his vision for the future of the Department. He also answered questions from the Commissioners concerning the now forming Citizens Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, training of staff on homeless issues and the legalization of marijuana.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and E-mail Reports

Lochtie reported three additional calls. One requesting info on the rights of grandparents. One regarding lack of timely medical attention for a inmate in the County jail and one from Jackson City Ohio concerning gay discrimination in a bar. All callers were contacted and referred as appropriate. Sanders reported no calls during his shift. Shelter had a call from Lighthouse of the Northcoast requesting additional resource cards.

a. Note to Commissioners:

Neal has 2,000 cards in both English and Spanish and new cards with additional info are in the works.

b. Telephone Assignments:

Shelter March 1-15, Altschuler March 16-31,
Sanders April 1-15, Miller April 16-30

c. Correspondence:

Lochtie received a letter from Rick Botzler concerning the Citizens Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, Commissioner Heise sent a letter to Sanders concerning the HRC's participation at the HSU jobs fair and speakers bureau and included a list of six students interested in possibly being interns for the Commission. Sanders receive a cc. of a letter Dan Taranto sent to HCD concerning

missing public participation policy in both the Housing Element and the General Plan for Humboldt County. He received a letter from someone alleging racial discrimination on a Amtrak train and a letter from Commissioner Nita Brake-Mills concerning the need for additional info for our participation in the Adopt a Hwy. program. Sanders also gave a verbal update on what had been happening with the Citizen complaint we had been investigating concerning the alleged inappropriate placement of a senior citizen in a rest home.

d. Finance:

Lohtie reported a balance of \$821.40 in the Commission account.

e. Outreach and Education:

Lohtie suggested that the letter Neal had written to the Wiyot tribe concerning the candlelight vigil and world renewal ceremony be modified as appropriate and submitted as a letter to the editor of the Times Standard. Lohtie made the motion, seconded by Altschuler and approved unanimously. Altschuler and Shelter have volunteered to be the Commission's liaisons to the group Humboldt Against Hate. This is a group of concerned organizations and individuals who are trying to address the homophobia lyrics and actions of some Jamaican reggae artists.

f. Web site

No report

g. Recognitions

No report

E. Unfinished Business

a. Law Enforcement Advisory Committee:

No report

b. Homelessness in Humboldt County:

Shelter stated that in general he feels the homeless situation is improving. He specifically mentioned how pleased the City of Eureka was with their (North Coast Resource Center) (NCRC) work at the Pal Co. marsh and the positive working relationships that are developing between the NCRC, Chief Garr Nielsen and his officers. He also mentioned that the lunch program restarted recently in Arcata is proving to be a success, drawing in more of its intended clientele.

c. Speakers bureau:

Sanders will work on a outline that would become somewhat standard for Commissioners (and others) speaking through our speakers program.

d. Access Humboldt:

They are starting their training sessions and Lochtie has volunteered to attend the first one but encourages other Commissioners or possibly interns, who may have an interest in this media, to attend as well.

e. Misc.

Sanders has volunteered to join the Association of Non Profits and be the Commission's representative. Lochtie has some "Know your rights" cards and will see if more are available. The discussion of and possible appointment of a Community Calendar Coordinator for the Commission was postponed to the next meeting.

F. New Business

Miller discussed and passed out copies of the letter from Dan Taranto, which was previously referred to under correspondence. Sanders will scan the letter and email it to Commissioners not in attendance and any action, if appropriate, will be discussed and acted upon at our next meeting. Miller will contact Taranto to see if he would like to come and discuss the contents of the letter and answer Commissioners questions. It was unanimously agreed that he would be limited to 30 minutes including questions.

G. Meeting adjourned-6:55 p.m.

Larry Miller, acting Secretary