



City of Richmond
Human Rights and
Human Relations Commission
MEETING MINUTES

Jasmine Jones, Chair
Joyce Harris, Vice Chair
Betty Burrus-Wright, PhD, Commissioner
Texanita Bluitt, Commissioner

Courtney Cummings, Commissioner
Carole Johnson, Commissioner
Crystal Johnson, PhD, Commissioner

Monday, October 26, 2015 at 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers
440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Jones.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chairperson Jones, Vice Chair Harris, Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluitt, Commissioner Cummings, and Commissioner Crystal Johnson.

ABSENT: Commissioner Carole Johnson

AGENDA REVIEW

Commissioner Crystal Johnson requested to move discussion item K. 2 A: "Presentation from Catholic Charities" to November HRHRC Regular Meeting. At the discretion of Chairperson Jones request was granted.

OPEN FORUM #1

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was put forward by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Commissioner Cummings, to accept the August 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. The motion is passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Council Liaison Councilmember Pimple reported about a joint meeting with Richmond Police Department and ACLU regarding surveillance and use of body camera. In addition, the City Council is scheduled to review the ordinance of the Police Commission at its October 27th meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Cummings highlighted different community events taking place in Richmond in October.

Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported on the successes of "Reach One. Teach One. Save a Child" event hosted by the Commission on September 12 and suggested to form partnerships with interested parties next year to reach more participants.

Commissioner Crystal Johnson reported the approval of AB 953: Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015 by Governor Brown.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairperson Jones participated a regional meeting called "Education Not Incarceration," convening of partner organizations from the Bay Area to strategize regional solutions to end the school-to-prison pipeline. The event took place at the RYSE Center on October 15.

STAFF REPORT

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

K.1 PRESENTATION: YOUTH LAW CENTER (25 MINUTES)

HEAR PRESENTATION ON YOUTH SHACKLING IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY AND
DISCUSS FURTHER ACTIONS

Presenter: Virginia Corrigan, J.D., Equal Justice Works Fellow

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones framed the item and introduced Ms. Corrigan, Staff Attorney at the Youth Law Center. Ms. Corrigan stated that shackling of youth has become a basic standard practice which is contrary to the juvenile hall purpose and violates rights of minors. She provided the Commission with detailed description of how youth are shackled through the courthouse to see a judge. She reminded the Commission about the intention behind creating the juvenile criminal system which was to provide resources to young people and deliver individual attention. The Youth Law Center sent a demand letter to Contra Costa County Probation Chief Kader requesting a meeting to begin talks to improve treatment of youth. However, little progress has been made since the meeting with the County Probation Department.

After discussion, Chairperson Jones invited Ms. Corrigan and the Youth Law Center to work with the HRHRC and asked her to inform the Commission on progress and updates.

Following members from the public spoke on this item:

Cordell Hindler presented a poem by Angela Davis and spoke regarding importance of youth engagement in community development.

K.2 COMMITTEE REPORT: POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS (30 MINUTES)

HEAR REPORT AND APPROVE UPDATES TO COMMITTEE'S PLANS

a. Hear Presentation from Catholic Charities on "Restorative Practices for Healing Harm in the Community" – *Presenter: Aswad Aarif – TABLED TO NOVEMBER MEETING*

b. Police and Community Relations Regular Meeting Updates
Commissioner Crystal Johnson, Commissioner Carole Johnson, Commissioner Cummings, Victoria Sawicki and Chairperson Jones

Commissioner Crystal Johnson framed the item and provided the HRHRC with updates on Police-Community Relations Committee (PCRC) plans. PCRC had a meeting on Monday, October 19 with Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of San Francisco Human Rights Commission. In addition, Commissioner Crystal Johnson reported that the PCRC is working on a list of questions for the study session with RPD, which will be provided to the Commission upon completion. She invited commissioners to submit questions to the list.

K.3 COMMITTEE REPORT: ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING (10 MINUTES)

HEAR AND DISCUSS COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. End of the Year Report

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones framed the item and shared that at the November 2015 Regular Meeting she plans to have a discussion on HRHRC goals for 2016. After discussion, the Commission directed staff to compile a list of events organized by HRHRC from 2009 that will go into the end of the year report and requested Council Liaison Vinay Pimple to agendize it on a future council meeting.

K.4 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (10 MINUTES)

HEAR AND DISCUSS COMMITTEE UPDATES ,

Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris

Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported that the Education Committee is working with local elementary schools to organize the Annual Artistically Write and Speak Aloud program in the early months of 2016.

K.5 APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATING COMMITTEE (5 MINUTES)

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 2 OF THE HRHRC BYLAWS, "THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HRHRC SHALL APPOINT A NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THREE COMMISSIONERS. SAID COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AND BRING BEFORE THE HRHRC, IN NOVEMBER, THE NAMES OF THE COMMISSIONERS AS NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICES OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON."

Chairperson Jones

Chairperson Jones appointed Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Cummings and Commissioner Bluit to the Nominating Committee.

REPORTS

None.

OPEN FORUM #2 (At approximately 8:30P.M.)

Cordell Hindler shared his support of HRHRC programs and events and requested to put RYSE Center on the November meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting in October 2015 was adjourned at 8:26 pm and to meet again on Monday, November 16, 2015 in the Richmond City Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza.