



Orange County Human Relations Commission

1300 S. Grand, Bldg. B, Santa Ana

7:00 PM, Thursday, June 8, 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT: Becky Esparza, Sean Thomas, Dr. Kerry Reynolds, Bekele Demissie, Michael Reynolds, Kim Toan Do & Dr. Chiarina Piazza

ABSENT: Mark Miller, Rabbi Steinberg, Elliot Singer & Chief Mike Hamel

STAFF: Norma López, Don Han, Joyce Sanchez

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chair.
2. Approve meeting minutes M/S/C approved the minutes.
3. Commissioner Piazza reviewed Monthly Summary for Commission.

OPEN FORUM

The Chair recognized guests and members of the public addressed the Commission:

- a. Ken Inouye addressed thanked the Commission for endorsing the budget for the Council & looking forward to strengthening relationship between Commission & Council.
- b. Laura Kanter, LGBT Center of OC, shared her concerns regarding OC Supervisors idea of separating the Commission for the Council. During this difficult time, the Commission needs to be fully staffed by the Council to continue providing the high level of support needed in the community.
- c. Bill Wood stated that he feels it is important that the partnership between Council and County of Orange continues due to the current events in the U.S. Hopes that everyone will be present at the BOS meeting next Tuesday to support the Council's winning bid.
- d. Frank Marmalejo, shared the occurrences at the BOS meeting on Tuesday, 6/6/17 and how the amount of people that came & supported the Council was amazing. Urges everyone to continue the support.
- e. Sue Reese stated that it would be very hard for the Commission to do its work without the Council's support. The Clerk of the County has too much to do to be able to continue offering the same level of service the Commission staff now offer.
- f. Melissa Morgan shared that she used to be a government employee where she staffed Human Relations Commission in a local city as a Human Dignity Officer. The reality is that there are not many who are trained in this highly-specialized arena. When the City reversed the funding for a Human Dignity Officer position, the Commission no longer had the same impact as it had historically been able to have. She publicly thanked the Commission staff for all the amazing work they do.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Chair Esparza reviews the memo to Commissioners regarding the issue of approving the Nominating Committee. Chair recommends that the Commission approve Rabbi Steinberg, Chiarina Piazza, and Elliot Singer as members of the Nominating Committee. M/S/C approved.
5. Chair Esparza proposed that the Commission support the publication of the 2016 Hate Crime report. She stated this is the annual publication that the Commission has become known for. After much discussion, the Commission voted not to publish the proposed report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. Director provided and update on the incident at the OC fairground's event & the #HateFreeOC campaign.
7. No Commissioner questions
8. No update from OC Chiefs & Sheriff
9. Announcements: Chiarina will be out of the Country until the end of June
10. Chair adjourns Commission meeting in memory of victims in Orlando, Fl. at 9:50 PM.