



Orange County Human Relations Commission

1300 S. Grand, Bldg. B, Santa Ana
7:00 PM, Thursday, March 9, 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT: Becky Esparza, Rabbi Steinberg, Dr. Chiarina Piazza, Sean Thomas, Dr. Kerry Reynolds, Chief Mike Hamel, Elliot Singer, Mark Miller, Bekele Demissie

STAFF: Norma López, Don Han, Karla Estudillo, Edgar Medina, Rusty Kennedy, Alison Edwards

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by the Chair.
2. Commissioner Thomas moved to amend notes on Commission statement item to read "Commissioners moved to table topic indefinitely." M/S/C approved the minutes
3. Mark Miller reported on the Monthly Summary of Commission Activities commending staff on activities and congratulated staff in an amazing Walk in My Shoes Jr. Conference at UCI.

OPEN FORUM

The Vice Chair recognized guests, who introduced themselves, but did not address the Commission.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Vice Chair reviewed Commission Strategic Planning Process Proposal and reviewed ideas on what the strategic planning process would focus on. M/S/C approved to engage in strategic planning process.
5. Commissioner Piazza reviewed outstanding City Council meeting and need dates for Placentia and Costa Mesa.
6. City of Irvine faced several hate crimes and the Council members, Melissa Fox, will be discussing the prospect of organizing a Community Forum. If City of Irvine decides to have a meeting & requests participation, Chief Hamel requests that the OC Human Relations Commission be involved. Chief Hamel motioned for Commission approval, M/S/C approved for Commission to participate should the City of Irvine request it.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Director provided update on community crisis response by Commission staff to various hate crime/incident situations. Commission supported AUHSD after off-duty LAPD officer situation and held healing circles for students, faculty and parents. Lastly, Commission staff, in partnership with OC Human Relations, is responding to a request from OCC for community and restorative work to improve inter-club relations on campus.
8. Commissioner Reynolds reviews Hate Free OC updates review on Commission staff outreach and response. Commission discussed the need to expand outreach to a diverse constituency.
9. Chair opens floor for questions or concerns that Commissioners might have. Commissioner Thomas shares concerns about getting Commissioners more involved in "on the ground" work and the inability to share our concerns/opinions about issues. Additionally, Commissioner Thomas stated that doing City Council visits can be perceived as raising funds. Awards 46 is a fundraiser and Commission should not be involved. Rabbi Steinberg added that City Council visits are good PR for the Commission and that drafted out speeches for Commissioners do not make mention about fundraising or dues. The Vice Chair suggested that City Council visits should be reviewed at the strategic planning process. Chair addressed concerns and stated that Commissioner Questions will be kept as a standing agenda item for future meetings.
10. Chief Hamel shared that he attended the service for Veteran Officer Boyer from Whittier, which was well attended and was a beautiful ceremony. M/S/C approved a condolence letter to be sent to the Whittier Police Department on behalf of the Commission.
11. Rabbi Rick Steinberg shared that the last OCSA Interfaith Council had over 30 attendees and was held in
12. Meeting was adjourned by Chair Becky Esparza in silence in Memory of Veteran Officer Boyer.