



Minutes
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

Roll Call 7:02pm

Commissioners Present: Aga, Edwards, Glueck, Hunter Parisi, Pardue-Okimoto. Absent: Hughes

1. Minutes

It was moved (Glueck/Hunter Parisi) to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2015 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Oral Communications from the Public: None.

3. Staff, Council Liaison and Commission Announcements and Reports:

Mayor Mark Friedman gave an update on City Council matters, notably the minimum wage discussion that would be considered by the Commission this evening. He noted that an upcoming major item that the Council and residents will consider next year will be building a new Library. He reported that the City's budget has been improving, and staff is moving forward to try to address services and deferred maintenance. Staff Liaison Pinkos reported that the Tobacco Retailers License ordinance will be an upcoming City Council item as well, in order to complete the City's goal to improve public health and receive an "A" grade from the American Lung Association. Mayor Friedman thanked the Commissioners for their work and appreciates their service.

4. El Cerrito Minimum Wage:

Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager, gave a staff presentation on the proposed minimum wage ordinance as discussed at the August City Council meeting. She discussed the background and various components that the Council directed staff to address in a proposed ordinance. There will be additional community meetings on this topic for the public to attend. Commissioners discussed the various elements of the proposal including phasing in for smaller businesses and nonprofits, living wage vs. minimum wage, the unintended consequences of forcing some businesses underground such as home health care for seniors, and who qualifies as an "employer". Iarla noted that many of those elements still need to be clarified based on feedback from the public and from the proposed model ordinance, that staff will review and include in El Cerrito's draft proposed ordinance. Commissioners also discussed the timeline for implementation, noting that while it is desirable for people to make better wages, there is definitely an impact on businesses to doing so, and that it would be beneficial for the City to do what it can to try to help those small businesses that this will have the biggest impact on.

Motion by Pardue-Okimoto, seconded by Glueck: The Human Relations Commission supports the increase of the minimum wage to \$15.00 in the City of El Cerrito; and yields to the City Council and the Community to make a detailed plan to implement it. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Subcommittee Reports:

- **Community Clean Up Event:** Report from Crime Prevention Committee member Nick Arzio and HRC subcommittee members, noted that the event will be to have interactions between police officers and youth for them to get to know each other on a different level. There won't be costs to any City commissions. The event is being planned by the subcommittee, and will be reported on as new information is available and plans firm up. There was no additional direction to the subcommittee.

- **MLK Day/Event:** Pat Durham, former HRC member and MLK event lead, was happy to be at the commission meeting to begin planning for the 2016 event, and the Commissioner thanked her for being there and for continuing to work with them on this event. Ms. Durham is glad to work with the subcommittee, and is eager to schedule meetings to discuss budget, theme, and potential speakers. One idea is to have a two-day event as has been done in the past, such as showing a movie at the Cerrito Theater. The subcommittee will meet on September 30 and will report back at the next HRC meeting. Ms. Durham also reported that day she had been in Sacramento with a group that marched to the Governor's office urging him to sign AB 953.
- Commissioner Glueck reported that the HRC was requested to reconnect with the ECHS students and Leadership teacher at the end of September. This item will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

6. Items for Next Meeting

Subcommittee reports on MLK and Community Cleanup Event, and Student Commissioner Program.

7. Adjourned 8:39 pm

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