



MINUTES

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Hillside Conference Room

Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Hall

10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Commissioner Elizabeth Block
Commissioner Patricia Durham
Commissioner Linda Jolivet
Commissioner Gabriel Quinto

Commissioner Sara Parker
Commissioner Erika Whitcomb
Commissioner Antonio Wong

7:05 p.m. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Jolivet, Quinto, Whitcomb and Wong – present
Commissioners Block and Durham - absent
Council Liaison Ann Cheng - present

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – No speakers

Approval of Minutes

Approve the September 7, 2011 Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Moved, seconded (Wong/Parker) and carried unanimously to approve minutes.

COUNCIL LIAISON AND COMMISSION REPORTS –

Council Cheng reported that the City is discussing/learning the pros and cons and the potential of becoming a Charter City. Becoming a Charter City would generate more revenue and the citizens would have to vote to change it. El Cerrito is currently a general law City. The Council is gearing up to “pay to play” for Redevelopment. This is the payment that is due in January 2012 to keep Redevelopment.

Staff Liaison Beshears reported that the bi-annual report to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was submitted in September. This report details the ethnicity and gender breakdown of permanent full-time City employees by department and job category. The City has 50% or more minority representation in three (3) of the seven (7) department.

Acting Corporal Elder reported there are no new hate crimes. He did report that there have been a number of burglaries in the hills.

Old Business

Promoting Diversity for high school students – Commissioners agreed to a list of businesses to ask for matching funds for the mini-grants: Safeway, Natural Foods, Jazzercise, Baskin & Robin, Barnes & Nobel, Starbucks, Macaroni Grill, Home Depot, Bed Bath & Beyond, Trader

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Jose, JoAnne Fabrics, Lucky's, Down Home Music, Subway, El Cerrito Pet Hospital. Staff Liaison Beshears will present the list to the City for approval prior to the Human Relations Commission contacting the businesses and will follow up with Commissioners by email. Commissioner Parker will prepare the final version of the business solicitation.

Action: Moved, seconded (Parker/Wong) and carried unanimously.

How to Honor Ernest Iiyama – Commissioners agreed to recommend a name change of Heritage Square to Ernest Iiyama Square. Staff Liaison Beshears will contact housing manager to find out how that is done.

Action: Moved, seconded (Quinto/Whitcomb) and carried unanimously.

Martin Luther King (MLK) Celebration – Commissioners agreed that they would like to show a movie before the MLK event on Sunday, January 15, 2012. Movies agreed to consider are: Muslim with Nia Long, Black Power Remix Tape, and Boycott. Staff Liaison Beshears will contact Suzanne Iarla the staff liaison for the theatre to find out if it is available. Commissioners agreed to move additional discussion of the event to next month when Commissioner Durham is present.

Action: Moved, seconded (Jolivet/Parker) and carried unanimously.

Items for Next Meeting

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration – January 16, 2012

Budget Planning and 5 Year Trend – Discuss the budget and how to allocate funds for events over the fiscal year as well as a review of the budget over the past 5 years.

Announcements – No announcements

ADJOURNED HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting is on November 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm.