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10 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**
11 **Thursday, June 12, 2008**
12 Council Conference Room
13 Palo Alto Civic Center
14 250 Hamilton Avenue
15 7:00 PM
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19 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Atito, Ezran, Khan, Savage **Council Liaison:** Peter
20 Drekmeier **Staff:** Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Amy Johnson
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23 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**
24 Mr. John Abraham handed out what he said he hoped would be instructional data in a more user friendly
25 format. He provided a summary of one year's data reflecting day and night stops for 3rd quarter 2006
26 through 2nd quarter 2007. He discussed the data presented in his charts.
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29 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
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31 None
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33 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**
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36 **BUSINESS**
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38 **1. STATUS REPORT FROM CITY OF PALO ALTO POLICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING**
39   **DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND OTHER ISSUES.**
40
41 Chief Johnson stated that she was here to give a verbal report. She commented that she liked Mr.
42 Abraham's charts and would be asking him for help as the department works to try to find new ways to
43 report the data. She said that they have been asked to do comparisons with other cities, but it has been
44 difficult. Some cities either collect but then do not prepare reports. She explained that the data shows
45 consistently that less than 50% of stops have been Palo Alto residents. The officers interact with people
46 from all over the world and throughout the country who pass through Palo Alto. Of 410 stops, 281 were
47 from Mountain View, 124 from Sunnyvale, 298 from San Jose, 102 from San Francisco, and others from
48 Guatemala, Hawaii, and British Colombia for example. She also reported that the City of East Palo Alto
49 is cracking down on gangs. Because of this, the agencies adjacent to them are experiencing additional

50 gang activity. She said that there may also be an increase of stops among Hispanics because of the
51 effort made against gangs.
52
53 Chief Johnson spoke briefly about improvements made within the department.
54
55 Chief Johnson reported that 41% of the department's new hires since the year 2003 have been people of
56 color; including African Americans, Chinese, Koreans, Hispanics, and Vietnamese to name a few.
57
58 She spoke about a parenting project class which help parents deal with difficult kids who are on the edge
59 of being out of control. She has received great responses.
60
61 Commissioner Savage commented that the list of accomplishments is very impressive. Councilmember
62 Drekmeier suggested that the list be given to City Council because he thinks they will also be impressed.
63
64 Commissioner Atito suggested that it also be posted on city's website and suggested ways to advertise
65 the parent project more.
66
67 Asst. Chief Burns reported on the collaborative effort between the Police Department and the
68 Community Services Department to address homeless issues in Palo Alto, including those who are drug
69 addicted and/or have mental illness. He discussed the Off the Streets Team which is a group of about 15
70 to 20 people who meet once a month and then a smaller group who also meets once a month to work
71 with individuals on their specific problems. They have had some early successful cases. The idea is to
72 bring the services to those individuals who might otherwise be involved in the court and jail system.
73
74 Chief Johnson spoke about Proposition 93 which resulted in new money coming into the mental health
75 department. Her predecessor Pat Dwyer was hired to help in setting up additional needed resources for
76 mentally ill people.
77
78 There was a brief discussion about the locations of gang activity.
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80 Commissioner Atito spoke about his concern with the need for more training of new officers. Chief
81 Johnson said that 4 out of 5 officers are Palo Alto born and raised and that the numbers of complaints
82 they receive are very low.
83
84 Mr. John Abraham wanted to comment on the data that was handed out. He appreciated the break down
85 of various cities and asked about when the data would be on the website. Chief Johnson said it should
86 be on the website by July 1st. He also commented that there is a lot of data on in discretionary stops. He
87 suggested on a monitoring process because it is difficult to know what is going on in an officer's mind
88 when they stop someone. He stated that there are too many searches occurring.
89
90 **2. DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SENATE**
91 **BILL 840.**
92
93 Ms. Carol Dalrymple from Health Care For All – California asked for the HRC to make a
94 recommendation to City Council to endorse SB 840. She said that a letter was sent Sharon Bozman,
95 City of Palo Alto Budget Manager. The letter identifies formulas which identify how the city would
96 benefit if SB 840 was passed. She explained that the City of Palo Alto pays the full cost of benefits to
97 its employees and would see a savings of $2,472,500. Ms. Dalrymple explained that she wants to keep
98 the effort active and they are still waiting for response from Ms. Bozman to confirm the data.

99 **3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**
100   None
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103 **4. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**
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106 **A. Commissioner Reports:**
107 Commissioner Atito welcomed Commissioner Ezran.
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110 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**
111 None
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114 **C. Council Liaison Report:**
115 Councilmember Drekmeier welcomed Commissioner Ezran and reported on the following:
116   • The City Council approved the "Build it Green" ordinance.
117   • The City's budget was approved without controversy.
118   • The City Council approved the Burma Resolution with some modifications. This was the first
119   time that an international issue was passed by City Council.
120   • The City Council voted to hire a police auditor to do an investigation of the Children's
121   Theater investigation.
122   • The City Council discussed a poll regarding a new library bond measure.
123
124
125 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**
126 Ms. Espinoza-Howard asked that the commissioners look at potential dates for the HRC retreat. She
127 asked if they would also think about whether they would like past commissioner Agiewich to facilitate
128 again. She also reported that the HRC's recommendation to amend the Mandatory Response Ordinance
129 will be going to the Policy and Services Committee on July 8th.
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132 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
133 None
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136 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**
137 Health Care
138 HRC Retreat
139 World Music Day on June 21 (September Agenda)
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142 **ADJOURNMENT**
143 The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm