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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Council Conference Room

Palo Alto Civic Center

250 Hamilton Avenue

7:00 PM

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ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present: Atito, Bacchetti, Ezran, Khan, Mendoza, Savage
Council Liaison: Peter Drekmeier **Staff:** Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Amy Johnson

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. John Abraham handed out newspaper article dated August 9, 2008. He spoke about demographic data. He said that Santa Clara County is the most diverse in the United States and that it is important that the Palo Alto Police Department be squeaky clean and free from discriminatory practices regardless of whether it is intentional or not. He commented that the data has been available, but city staff has not posted in on the city's website yet. He also commented that the chief told him she was interested in his comments, but has done nothing about his recommendations and that he is concerned about the inconsistency of what she says and what she does. He stated that he is looking at police data very carefully and believes the data suggests pretexting. He asked that the HRC inquire with the Chief to find out what is going on.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Savage made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the June 12, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Khan, AYES: 5, Abstention: 1.

Commissioner Ezran made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the July 10, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Savage, AYES: Unanimous.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:

Commissioner Khan asked that the HRC Award be moved to the October meeting.

BUSINESS

- 1. HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROCESS (HSRAP) DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY OF NEEDS.**

50 Kathy Espinoza-Howard thanked Commissioner Ezran for arranging the site visits for the
51 commissioners. She asked the commissioners if they wanted to propose changes or additions to the
52 previous priority of needs list.

53
54 Commissioner Khan asked for the percentage of HSRAP money according to how it is paid for each
55 type of priority. Staff said that they did not have that information, but will provide it at the next
56 meeting.

57
58 Commissioner Mendoza asked if there would be a change in the source of funding in the future for each
59 of the service providers. There was a brief discussion about how reduced county funding will potentially
60 cause an increase in the agencies budgets. Commissioner Bacchetti suggested that RFP ask agencies to
61 identify their projected funding changes.

62
63 Commissioner Khan asked for information about trends so that she can do some data analysis.

64
65 Commissioner Savage asked staff about the consistency of the data. Kathy Espinoza-Howard explained
66 that there has been a serious decline in funding to the organizations. She went on to say that certain
67 organizations did not apply even though they provided services for needs that were listed as a priority.

68
69 There were no changes made to priority of needs list from the previous year.
70

71 72 **2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

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74 Commissioner Atito nominated Commissioner Savage as Chair, Seconded by Commissioner Khan.

75 AYES: Unanimous.

76 Commissioner Ezran nominated himself for Vice-Chair, but later withdrew his nomination.

77 Commissioner Savage nominated Commissioner Mendoza as Vice Chair, Seconded by Commissioner
78 Atito: AYES: Unanimous.

79 80 81 **3. PROPOSAL OF WORLD MUSIC DAY**

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83 Commissioner Ezran provided a brief explanation of World Music Day which is celebrated in many
84 countries on June 21st. During the event, musicians are invited to play on street corners, and other
85 assigned locations. He suggested the most likely places might be Downtown, California Avenue, and
86 Midtown. He is seeking endorsement of the HRC. He explained that this event promotes community
87 involvement, which is a goal of the HRC. It is also an interesting and fun event. He explained that he
88 and Commissioner Khan have been working on this idea; they have met with staff of the Recreation
89 Division, Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Association. They have received an
90 enthusiastic response. He explained that with many endorsements, they can keep the costs down and
91 might need a budget of 2,000 to 10,000.

92
93 Commissioner Savage asked if he knew who would be responsible for planning. Commissioner Ezran
94 said that he and Commissioner Khan would organize a steering committee and also ask for volunteers.
95 There was a brief discussion about what the HRC would be expected to do.

96
97 Kathy Espinoza-Howard recommended that the idea be presented to Council Liaison Peter Drekmeier to
98 see if he might write a colleagues memo which might expedite the approval by City Council.

99 There was a brief discussion about the estimated costs for the event. Commissioner Khan explained that
100 the Downtown Business Association might cover the insurance for the event, if they decide to sponsor it.
101 City funding might be needed to cover advertising costs such as a Utility Bill insert, cost to make a
102 banner, waiving the cost of permits, and waiving costs for police staff.

103
104 **Commissioner Ezran made a motion that the HRC endorses celebrating World Music Day in 2009**
105 **and seeks an endorsement of the City of Palo Alto that will also include: waiving the fee for special**
106 **event permits, waiving fee for police, if additional policing is required, and funding of an insert in**
107 **the Utility Bill. Seconded by Commissioner Bacchetti. AYES: Unanimous.**
108

109 110 **4. PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS AS INSTRUMENTS OF COMMUNITY BUILDING** 111

112 Commissioner Bacchetti discussed the main points of his idea:
113 To examine ways of having meetings in Palo Alto between government staff and citizens that build
114 social capital. This project would build around ideas of conflict resolution, and mediation. He also said
115 that he discussed the idea with his Council Buddy John Barton and is also planning a meeting with staff
116 of the City Manager's Office including the new City Manager. He also explained that he would like to
117 make this a project of the HRC and get the endorsement of the HRC that this would be a project,
118 possibly jointly with PAGE, who originated the idea.

119
120 There was a brief discussion about project funding costs and including PAGE on the project.

121
122 There was a brief discussion about how the project idea is abstract and hard to understand especially by
123 the general public. Commissioners Ezran and Mendoza expressed their concern about making it more
124 understandable. Commissioner Bacchetti agreed that if the project cannot be made to be understandable,
125 it should go no further.

126
127 Commissioner Khan said that she endorses the idea and suggests that Commissioner Bacchetti identify
128 the target audience in the proposal.

129
130 There was a brief discussion about who is the intended target audience, and if the proposal includes all
131 meetings such as internal city staff meetings. Commissioner Bacchetti said that the idea is based on
132 developing skills at meetings.

133
134 Commissioner Atito reminded the other commissioners that this proposal goes along the idea of what
135 the City Council has asked the HRC to do.

136
137 **Commissioner Bacchetti made a motion that the HRC endorse in principle the project to develop**
138 **meetings as instruments of community building; that Commissioners Bacchetti and Mora**
139 **represent the HRC on this project and that by December 11, 2008, a well-framed and specific**
140 **proposal be developed for consideration by the HRC as a recommendation to the City Council,**
141 **Seconded by Commissioner Atito, AYES: Unanimous.**
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143 144 **5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

145 None
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148 **6. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

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150 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

151 Commissioner Khan thanked Commissioner Ezran for setting up the meetings with non-profits for site
152 visits.

153
154 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**

155 None

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157 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

158 Council Liaison Peter Drekmeier reported that the ICE resolution recommended by HRC that had been
159 tabled last December is now going to come back to City Council for discussion. He also reported on
160 modifications made by the City Council to the BMR program. Policy and Services recommended to go
161 back to the 1/3 plus 2000 equity formula, which was the HRC's original recommendation. He also
162 commented that the new City Manager is very interested in civic engagement.

163
164 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

165 Kathy Espinoza-Howard introduced her newest staff member, Ms. Linda Larson, Program Assistant
166 who will also be assisting the HRC at meetings. Ms. Howard invited the HRC Commissioners to attend
167 the Family Resources Ambassador Development Program.

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170 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

171 None

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174 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

175 PROPOSAL OF HRC AWARD
176 DISCUSSION WITH POLICE CHIEF REGARDING DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND OTHER
177 ISSUES.
178 CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF HSRAP BREAKDOWN.

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180 **ADJOURNMENT**

181 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm