



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

C Blomberg opened meeting at 6:32.

Members Present: Blomberg, Clinton-Mazalewski, Ellstrand, Greenwald, Selwyn, Friedman, Amy Li

Members Absent: Plank, Privateer, Yilma

DG requested that Item VI.4. Family Court be pulled. J Selwyn moved, seconded by C Blomberg, approval of the agenda as amended. Agenda approved by consensus.

II. Approval of Minutes –April 25, 2013

C Blomberg moved, seconded by J Selwyn, approval of the April 25 minutes. Minutes approved by consensus vote.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

Bill Calhoun: questions City support of July 4th; feels there is contradiction between what we celebrate and what Declaration of Independence meant. Would like to recommend that if Council finances activities on July 4th, should come with an explanation of what it means. Diane Evans asked for some clarification. Commission concurred that July 4th issue is not an immediate priority but agreed to place it on a future agenda.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

None.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

K. Stachowicz announced that City Hall would be participating in a pilot program which would alter the hours. Starting June 24, City Hall will be open Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Fridays will alternate between current hours of 8am to 5pm and closed. The first closed Friday will occur on July 5.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Police Interactions with Citizens –

Commissioners D Greenwald and C Blomberg have prepared a draft resolution for discussion at the Commission meeting. Commission may also discuss racial profiling, racial insensitivity and recent incidents in the community.

D. Greenwald explained proposal to request the Davis Police Department report out semi-annually on data for arrests, citations, traffic stops, broken down by age, race and ethnicity. Reports would be made available February 1 and August 1. Reports would be released to the media and the Commission and any citizen upon request.

Asst. Police Chief Darren Pytel: Police Department has some data already for arrests and citation data. Noted that it is complex to collect data. There's nothing specific that is required to be reported other than the fact that there was a stop. There are challenges with benchmarking (noted Department of Justice report).

C. Blomberg: Having numbers available would help community understand the situation.

D. Pytel: Doesn't believe Police Department has done a good job addressing how change should take place. Proposes to bring data on citations to next meeting so that Commission can have discussion on what data and information actually mean so that conversation can be spent on potential solutions. Starting small may make for more meaningful conversation/solutions.

Diane Evans: Wants to know whether Davis follows national trend of incarcerating Black men at a higher rate than other individuals? She has experienced unfair treatment because she and family members are Black. Have to look at value system of policing.

D. Greenwald: Start looking at the data because you can't generalize off of anecdotes. Blomberg: People need to see diverse authority figures. Concerned about transparency issue.

D. Pytel: You have to be careful using statistics. Should focus on the ways you can make improvements rather than just the statistic/number.

B Calhoun: How do officers feel about diversity, etc.? Is there an exit interview of minority officers who leave the force?

Greenwald: Mentioned the Breaking the Silence of Racism subcommittee recommendations:

- *Continuous, meaningful training for the police*
- *Data collection*
- *Effective outreach*
- *Mediation process*
- *Community meeting*
- *Hiring process for police officers*
- *Cultural training*

MOTION:

D Greenwald moved, with a second by J Selwyn, to have Davis Police Department return in June with data from citations, with an eye toward creating system of transparency, to analyze all types of data. Unanimous in favor.

2. Discussion on Hate Crimes and Incidents and Report from Anti-Hate Crime Subcommittee Report –

Gloria Partida: Not sure what HRC already doing. Son does not feel like there is much for him in Davis but has always felt comfortable in Davis. Concerned that there isn't enough tolerance education in schools.

Blomberg: HRC did survey several years ago, with good number of responses from LGBTQ community. Part of LGBTQ community experience mirrors that of Black experience in Davis. Challenge to have many minority communities feel comfortable.

J. Selwyn: LGBT community under the radar in Davis. Campus-Community divide is fairly significant. Trying to do film showing of The Laramie Project and have a discussion about it but haven't been able to do it yet. Need to broaden conversation and become active on campus.

L. Friedman: Alex Lee Jobe has been communicating with Not In Our Town; they want to do something in Davis.

G. Partida: Anti-Defamation League also may be helpful.

D. Evans: would like to see LGBT banners in community or something similar.

Commission discussed importance of teaching others about differences, continuing with an anti-hate program and film (possibly with Davis Media Access, Central Park), Not In Our Town organization, and interested community members.

3. Proposal for Civil Counsel and City Involvement in Mediation Services –

Commission will table Greenwald's proposal. Community members discussed mediation services through Community Mediation Service (would like to bring that program back) and the creation of the Neighborhood Court Project. The community members would like to have a relationship/partnership with the City to utilize City meeting space/rooms and would like to partner with the City for referrals. They will return with a more specific proposal and will consider working with the City on trainings.

4. Family Court Discussion –

This item was held over to a future meeting.

VII. Updates and Administrative Tasks

1. Breaking the Silence of Racism Report and Discussion –

Change of focus from DJUSD to focus on racial profiling following incident with Eli Davis.

MOTION:

Greenwald motions the following proposal of ideas for the next agenda, Selwyn seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

- *Data collection (worked on at this meeting)*
- *Looking into training*
- *Devising effective outreach*
- *Mediation with police*
- *Community meeting (in Fall)*
- *Hiring process (talk to police)*
- *Ellstrand suggested online submission form of stories such as what Evans provided earlier.*

2. Diversity and Discrimination Report Subcommittee Report and Discussion –
This item was held over to a future meeting.

3. Juneteenth Event Report –
The subcommittee reported out that the Culture C.O.O.P. (Sandy Holman) is leading the charge. The event will occur on Saturday, June 22 from 1pm to 5pm at the Veterans Memorial Center and the Yolo Library. There will be vendors, food and performances.

Selwyn requested that the group agendaize in July a discussion on “who we are” as a commission: activist group or city body?

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.