



## MINUTES

### REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 3, 2010 - 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 Antonio Wong

Councilmember Sandi Potter

#### 7:00 p.m. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Block, Durham, Wong and Councilmember Potter all present.

#### Approval of Minutes

Approve the September 2, 2009 Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Durham/Wong) and carried unanimously to approve minutes as submitted.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** – No speakers

#### COUNCIL LIAISON AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Other Announcements – Councilmember Potter noted that the January 19, 2010 Martin Luther King Celebration was fabulous. The City Council has formed a sub committee for Boards and Commissions to work on more defined roles.

Councilmember Potter reported the Arts & Culture Commissioners served alcohol on February 2, 2010 at the Cerrito Theatre. The Berkeley Opera at El Cerrito High starts this month and tickets are available on-line. The Arts & Culture Commission will have art on the light poles as part of the San Pablo Improvement Plan. Councilmember Potter encouraged the Human Relations Commission to come out to the Council Meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> to meet the artists and to be involved to make sure the art represents the community. The artists are from the east bay and it's important to make sure the diversity of the city is captured in the art. The information is also available on-line.

Councilmember Potter reported the Council will discuss the budget during the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. These are difficult times and the Council will discuss cost cutting measures. Commissioner Durham stated that the Human Relations Commission will come out on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The art should reflect our community. The schools have great history here and it should be reflected in the art. El Cerrito is a family oriented place.

### **Old Business**

Commission Brochure – Commissioner Durham has the revised copy of the brochure and will provide a copy to staff liaison, Beshears.

Brainstorming for future events – Commissioner Durham stated the events that the Human Relations Commission should be involved in are July 4<sup>th</sup>, Diversity Forum and possibly a film at the Theatre and a reception after. Commissioner Wong mentioned the Japanese film was successful. Commissioner Durham would like to have a booth for the July 4<sup>th</sup> event and would like the Commissioners to think about some things that the Human Relations Commission could do at the booth, like a game “*How much do you know about your city?*”

### **New Business**

Additional Commission Members – Commissioner Durham will follow up with high school students. Commissioner Wong stated recruiting is the top priority. Councilmember Potter advised that the Human Relations Commission can recruit throughout the year if there are seats available. Commissioner Durham stated that the Human Relations Commission has to get busy and be active – the mission of Human Relations Commission is powerful.

### **Chair and Vice Chair Selection**

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Wong/Block) and carried to elect Commissioner Durham as Chair.  
Moved, seconded (Wong/Durham) and carried to elect Commissioner Block as Vice Chair.

Councilmember Potter noted that if only two members are available the Human Relations Commission will not meet and it is important to recruit new members. Councilmember Potter knows a Portola student that is interested. Commissioner Durham met a lot of students during the Martin Luther King Celebration and will ask if they are interested. Councilmember Potter stated the process through the City Council takes about a month to get someone on the Commission.

Commissioner Durham provided some history on the Human Relations Commission. The Human Relations Commission started as a result of a protest about 21 years ago from a Martin Luther King Celebration. Charles Wilson, founder of the Human Relations Commission, was a member of Commissioner Durham’s church.

### **Announcements**

Sukari Beshears was hired on January 4, 2010 as the Employee Services Manager. She is replacing Sandy Chapek who retired on October 9, 2009. Beshears will serve as staff liaison for the Human Relations Commission.

**ADJOURNED HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING** at 8:30 p.m.  
The next meeting is on March 3, 2010 at 7:00 pm.