



## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Staff Liaison

Alexandra Orologas | 510.215.4315

[aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

VIA TELECONFERENCE

- 1. ROLL CALL – CONVENE REGULAR MEETING:** Vice Chair Julia Conant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. **Present:** Vice Chair Julia Conant, Buddy Akacić, Indy Singh, and Student Commissioner Lucy Sterba - Quorum not established. Mina Wilson (arrived at 7:08 p.m.) - Quorum established at this time. Diane Johnson (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Chair Walter Williams (7:28 pm). **Absent:** Alice Morris
- 2. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**  
HR Specialist Shannon Bassi, provided an update that two proclamations that were approved at the June 1, 2021 Council Meeting (LGBTQIA and Loving Day). In addition, HR Specialist Bassi provided an update that a first review of the Budget Book was conducted at the same council meeting, with a second following on June 15. All were encouraged all to attend the Virtual Budget Meeting. During Commissioners' Reports, Commissioner Singh discussed his personal experience and feelings regarding recent discrimination, cultural dynamics within the community, Human Relations Commission (HRC) procedures and Commissioner duties, and his concern about the Mindfulness Around Policing topic he proposed at the previous meeting not being added to the agenda by the Chair. Staff Liaison Alexandra Orologas provided context to the Commission regarding the agenda topic and the meeting that took place at City Hall the day prior involving Staff Liaison Orologas, HR Specialist Bassi, Chair Williams and Commissioner Singh. Councilmember Lisa Motoyama expressed her thoughts and feelings of concern about the dialogue. Councilmember Motoyama was present but reserved her Council update for item #5.
- 3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Sherry Drobner commented on the Ohlone Greenway Discussion update. She attended the Ohlone Greenway presentation the week prior.
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**Moved/Seconded:** \_Commissioner Akacić / Chair Williams **Action:** Motion to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2021 meeting. **Ayes:** Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Conant; Members Akacić, Johnson, Singh and Wilson. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.
- 5. OHLONE GREENWAY DISCUSSION**  
Councilmember Motoyama reported she met with Mayor Fadelli and a Sogorea Te' leader regarding this topic and discussed the extensive work the Sogorea Te' Land Trust is doing with Local Governments in the area. Councilmember Motoyama suggested bringing a presentation to future City Council meeting. Before that happens, Councilmember Motoyama suggested the HRC and the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) Commissioners meet to discuss the topic further and work together.

**Moved/Seconded:** Commissioner Wilson / Commissioner Johnson **Action:** Motion to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee between the HRC and EQC Commissions, including one (1) member from the EQC to collaborate and strategize ways to approach the Ohlone Greenway Discussion with Commissioners Singh and Akacić. **Ayes:** Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Conant; Members Akacic, Johnson, Singh and Wilson. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

## 6. COMMUNITY LISTENING FORUM SERIES

Commissioner Wilson provided an update that two more Listening Sessions remain to end the Asian-American Listening Session Series. Commissioner Wilson noted there had been discussion around exploring additional topics to expand the Listening Series to include the Native American Community and the Whiteness forum.

## 7. LOVING DAY

Further discussion occurred regarding the Loving Day Event in June 2021, which was approved in a prior HRC meeting to take place virtually. Commissioners Singh and Akacić provided a status update on the Loving Day event planning. The HRC discussed any additional resources needed to move the event forward and finalize the planning. Staff Liaison Orogas clarified the roles of City Staff and Commissioners in regard to event planning.

## 8. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE AND ACTIVITES

Commissioners discussed beginning planning stages of the MLK Event.

**Moved/Seconded:** Commissioner Johnson / Commissioner Wilson **Action:** Motion to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee with Student Commissioner Sterba, and Commissioners Johnson, and Chair Williams to meet and continue planning the MLK Event. **Ayes:** Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Conant; Members Akacić, Johnson, Singh and Wilson. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

## 9. LETTER OF SUPPORT TO NAACP

Commissioner Wilson discussed the West Contra Costa School District (WCCUSD) School Board considering replacing 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Geography with Ethnic Studies.

**Moved/Seconded:** Commissioner Johnson / Commissioner Wilson **Action:** Motion to write a letter of support to the NAACP; to be created by end of day on Tuesday June 8, 2021 and to be submitted to the NAACP on June 10, 2021 to create a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Ethnic Studies at WCCUSD. **Ayes:** Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Conant; Members Akacić, Johnson, Singh and Wilson. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

## 10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Commission stated they wished to have a Special Human Relations Commission meeting July 7, 2021.

- Strategic Planning Workshop and Agenda
- Revisit the Approved HRC Meeting Calendar

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:30 p.m.