

**Human Rights Commission
Study Session
Notes**

June 21, 2018

Commissioners Present: Lorenzo Cervantes, Brad Bates, Allen Ratcliffe, Natalie Collins, Jennifer Vasilez, Gina Fonseca, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Michealea Lemons, Sarah Lee

Commissioners Absent: Kim Tosch, Andy Youn, Jen Haggard, Rebecca Stith, Lisa Snyder

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong, Wesley Taylor

Commissioner Bates called the Study Session to order at 5:40 p.m.

Committee Work

- **Education & Outreach**, reported by Commissioner Lemons
E&O asked OEHR Staff, M’Balu Bangura, to forward her list of community events OEHR plans to attend so that the Commission can consider attending and/or helping staff a booth. E&O discussed writing brief article for local newspapers regarding human rights issues or promoting HRC activities and/or events.
- **Commission Operations & Quality Assurance**, reported by Commissioner Fonseca
COQA is working on several things: 1) enhancing HRC’s webpage, 2) a template for written public statements, and 3) recommendations for OEHR re: the conciliation templates used by investigators. COQA will present these items to HRC soon. At the HRC’s next Study Session, 7/19/18, Judge Powell will present re: discrimination law.
- **Policy & Advocacy**, reported by Commissioner Vasilez
The group is preparing a resolution re: Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Commissioner Vasilez is on the agenda to speak to Puyallup Tribal Elders in July.

Task Force Work

- **Racial Justice**, reported by Commissioner Lemons
Commissioner Lemons has replaced Commissioner Haggard as the Chair. The task force met with Andreta Armstrong to learn about the work OEHR is doing concerning racial equity. The task force has contacted prior HRC commissioner Hermenia Jackson and hopes to arrange for her to conduct a Train the Trainer workshop re: Race: The Power of an Illusion. The task force then intends to provide a training for the community.
- **Amend TMC 1.29**, reported by Commissioner Vasilez
The task force met with Rep. Laurie Jinkins and shared its plan to study adding citizenship, immigration status, language, and source of income to 1.29. Rep. Jinkins spoke about the process she and the HRC went through previously when adding Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity to the list of protected classes.

- **Charity Care**, reported by Commissioner Bates
Commissioner Bates reviewed the task force's interim report (included among materials for this study session). Commissioner Ratcliffe shared that many community organizations have expressed an interest in the charity care training(s) planned by the task force. Commissioner Cervantes asked Commissioner Bates how the task force's work fits into the core functions of the HRC. Commissioner Bates reviewed that the HRC has a broad mandate to study community problems which may result in intergroup tensions or discrimination. In addition, it appears that LEP residents are experiencing discrimination based on national origin/language when attempting to access charity care, which falls squarely in the purview of the HRC's responsibility to prohibit discrimination in the area of public accommodations.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

**Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting
Minutes**

June 21, 2018

Commissioners Present: Lorenzo Cervantes, Brad Bates, Allen Ratcliffe, Natalie Collins, Jennifer Vasilez, Gina Fonseca, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Michealea Lemons, Sarah Lee

Commissioners Absent: Kim Tosch, Andy Youn, Jen Haggard, Rebecca Stith, Lisa Snyder

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong, Wesley Taylor

Commissioner Bates called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Approval

- Commissioner Bates called for a motion to approve the HRC Business Meeting agenda for June 21, 2018. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Approval of Minutes

- Commissioner Bates called a motion to approve Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2018. A motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

Chair's Report, by Commissioner Bates

- New date: July 12, 4:30 pm presentation to the CVS Committee.
- Race & Pedagogy September 27-27. Commissioner Lee will present re: community policing. Other presenters will include Valerie Jarrett, Alicia Garza, Patrice Cullors, Jeff Chang, and Brian Cladoosby. Commissioners were asked to inform Chair Stith, Vice Chair Bates, and Andreta Armstrong in advance of the HRC's July Business Meeting whether they wish to attend. She said OEHR anticipates being able to pay registration for Commissioners wanting to attend.
- The Seattle HRC has approached our HRC re: a joint statement re: the US withdrawal from the U.N. Human Rights Council. The HRC discussed this item but chose not to take action at this time.
- Vice Chair Bates announced that Chair Stith would like the HRC to consider writing either a public statement or a resolution to present to the City Council re: the recent zero-tolerance border policy that has resulted in immigrant families being separated. The HRC discussed this issue., including collaborating with the recently formed Commission on Immigrant & Refugee Affairs (CIRA). The HRC chose to draft a resolution to present to

City Council. A motion was made, seconded, and carried. The resolution will include the following ideas:

- Oppose separating immigrant children from their families.
- Oppose indefinite and lengthy incarceration of families and children.
- Encourage speedy reunification of families currently separated.
- Denounce incarcerating families and children at Northwest Detention Center.
- The HRC will reach out to CIRA to ask if it would like to do this together.
- Commissioners who will work on the resolution: Lee, Ratcliff, Vasilez, and Stith.
- The HRC felt the resolution was time-urgent. Andreta will work on getting HRC's resolution on the July 10 City Council Agenda.

Commissioner's Reports/New Business

- The HRC voted to accept the Charity Care Task Force's interim report, including its plan to provide charity care training(s) to navigators at local agencies.
- Several Commissioners volunteered to staff the booth at the Hilltop Street Fair: Collins, Lee, and Lemons (OEHR as already paid registration fees).
- Regarding the Pride Booth, Andreta will determine if OEHR has a booth. If OEHR purchased booth space, the HRC will share the booth.

Staff Report

- The Human Rights Team has a new Fair Housing Program Coordinator, Wesley Taylor. Although Wesley lives in Tacoma, he joins the City's workforce from the Seattle Housing Authority.
- ChiQuata Elder continues her work re: tenants' rights (M'Balu Bangura is assisting) and will present to CVSC next Thursday, June 28.
- No case recommendations to review

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm