

**Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting
Minutes**

January 15, 2015

Present: Alice Currie, Richard McGrue III, Nicci Montgomery, Joyce Miles, April Nimick, Darion N. Reese, Fred Schuneman, Suzanne Skaar, Larry Strege, Lucas Smiraldo, Christopher Winters

Absent: Preston Anderson, Vazaskia Caldwell, Olgy Diaz, April Sanders

City Staff: Marya Gingrey, Tina McLeod, William Yi

Chair Schuneman called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Approval

Chair Schuneman called for a motion to approve the HRC Business Meeting Agenda of January 15, 2015. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Motion was made to add the following items to the agenda under New Business: Motion to Reconsider Commissioner Caldwell's Leave of Absence Request, discuss Attendance Policy, leave of absence policy, and Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement Bates v Casa Buena Association of Apartment Owners. Motion seconded and carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the HRC meeting minutes for December 18, 2014.

New HRC Business

- Motion was made and seconded to reconsider Commissioner Caldwell's leave of absence request of December 2014 to May 2015. Motion carried.
- Motion was made and seconded to remove the following words from the Attendance Policy "*which explains the reasons for the request*" and to add the words "*or their designee*" so that the updated language reads as follows: "*The request shall be made in writing to the Chair of the Commission or their designee.*" Motion carried.
- Motion was made and seconded to only allow one leave of absence request by removing the following language from the Attendance Policy: "*Should the commissioner requesting leave wish to have the leave extended beyond six months, a new written request shall be presented to the Chair of the Commission. The Chair shall then present the request at the next business meeting for a vote on whether to approve or deny the extension. The majority vote of a quorum present is necessary to approve or deny the request. If a quorum is not present, the matter shall be postponed until the next*

business meeting in which a quorum is present. Only one extension of a six month leave of absence may be granted. The extension may last up to six months from the date it is granted.” Motion carried.

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the Bates v Casa Buena Association of Apartment Owners Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement. Motion carried.

Chair’s Report

- No report

Commissioner’s Report

- Commissioner Smiraldo reported about the Laureate Anthology Project.
- Commissioner Skaar reported that she maintains a website on banning tear gas.
- Commissioner Winters reported that Omar Rubi inquired about existing resources that outlines the investigative process as it relates to specifics that investigators look at as a reference point in wage theft.
- Commissioner Montgomery reported that there will be a film shown on January 31, 2015 on homeless youth. There will be a panel with the film director, moderators, and other community members.

Staff Report

Marya Gingrey

- Marya Gingrey, referring to the Report of Case Closures, stated that during this period, we closed three housing cases as No Reasonable Cause Findings:
 - HRC 4710 – Chase v. Steele Manor/Dobler Management, et. al.
 - HRC 4711 – Hebert v. The Walker Building/Pacific Living Properties, et. al.
 - HRC 4712 – Point Defiance Village/Holiday Retirement, et. al.
- The new Human Rights Program Assistant is William Yi, which has become a permanent City position.
- Human Rights have moved from the 8th floor to the 10th floor and are a part of the Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR).
- The Executive Management Team (EMT), Human Resources Department, and OEHR will be attending Undoing Institutional Racism (UIR) workshops.
- Human Rights are now a part of OEHR. As a result, Human Rights lost some administrative support from Anne Michael-Smith and Vicki Walker. These administrative duties have been added to William Yi’s current workload.
- Human Rights have a new intern, William Towey from University of Washington – Tacoma. His internship began January 5, 2015 and will last at least one quarter.
- The City of Tacoma MLK Jr. Day Celebration will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015.

Tina McLeod

- The Conversation will be hosting an interfaith service titled “Redeeming of the Prophetic Vision” at Urban Grace Church on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM.

Director’s Report

- No report

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

Business Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Action Items:

None