



~ M I N U T E S ~

City of Redlands Human Relations Commission
Redlands City Hall/Council Chambers - 35 Cajon St. Redlands CA
5:45 p.m. – Monday, September 21, 2015

PRESENT: Ed Gomez, Chair, presiding; Carole Coley, Secretary; Commissioners Gretchen Andrews, Swathi Balaji (student), Judith Ashton, Donald Singer; Council Liaison Paul Barich, Staff Liaison Officer Chris Mead.

ABSENT: Evelyn Maldonado, Ronald Venegas

I. Call to Order

After a quorum was established, the meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The Commission by formal motion approved the meeting agenda.

III. Approval of the Minutes- July 20, 2015

The Commission by formal motion approved without corrections the minutes of the August 2015 special meeting.

IV. Public Comment

Two citizens who attended this meeting spoke to offer their assistance to assist the HRC in whatever endeavors were pursued in improving relations in the City of Redlands.

V. Action Items

None

VI. Presentations/ Discussions

A. Haiti-Sister City Proposal

Rev. Carlo Alce, owner of Dhat Island restaurant in Redlands, proposed that the City of Redlands become a sister city to Limonade, a small commune in Haiti whose population is nearly identical to Redlands. Rev. Alce, a 20-year resident of Redlands and a Haiti native, has appeared before this Commission with the sister city proposal. He noted that both cities have historical backgrounds.

B. Homeless Outreach Program

As owner of Dhat Island, Rev. Alce has been feeding homeless individuals, whom he calls the 'special people' every evening. While he feels that his new location in Redlands on East Vine Street may make it a little difficult to continue, he vowed to keep trying. He has established a partnership with Redlands Family Services Association and in January started a prayer group for police and city officials.

It was noted that five churches in Redlands offer meals for homeless individuals and one offering showers on Saturday mornings. All were reminded that the

Redlands Charitable Resource Coalition has a Website where many forms of help for the homeless can be found.

The HRC again reiterated its interest in assisting the City in helping homeless individuals.

C. *RUSD/ MLK Essay Contest*

Student Commissioner Bathi agreed to take up the middle school MLK essay contest and will be assisted by Commissioner Coley.

D. *Race Forums Update*

The January 2016 meeting, usually considered as a ‘retreat,’ would be the date for the first forum on race. Update on progress will be provided at the next meeting.

VII. *Reports: Committees/Commissioners*

Student Commissioner Balaji offered a comprehensive report on her Compact Club’s Multiplier Generosity Contest entry, which involved malnutrition on a local and global basis. She noted that her efforts in educating young children on nutrition while in India during the summer were quite successful.

VIII. *Open Discussion*

Six members of the Nation of Islam attended this meeting. They said it was an honor to present before the HRC and lauded the fact that the HRC was representative of different races and ethnic groups, offered to stand with the HRC in our efforts, and reminded that they often serve as buffers for police departments and offered their assistance. They attended this meeting to bring our attention to the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Million Man March, which will be celebrated in Washington, DC on Saturday, October 10. A brief yet compelling video, *Justice or Else: The Way Forward* featuring NOI Minister Louis Farrakhan, was shown to the group as a preview of what would be covered at the march.

IX. *Old Business*

Commissioners were reminded to bring to the next meeting their thoughts on what they considered to be criteria for an HRC Humanitarian Award.

X. *New Business*

XI. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2015 in Council Chambers unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Coley, Secretary
November 10, 2015