



**City of Richmond**  
**Human Rights and**  
**Human Relations Commission**  
**MEETING MINTUES**

*Jasmine Jones, Chair*  
*Joyce Harris, Vice Chair*  
*Betty Burrus-Wright, PhD, Commissioner*  
*Texanita Bluitt, Commissioner*

*Courtney Cummings, Commissioner*  
*Carole Johnson, Commissioner*  
*Crystal Johnson, Commissioner*  
*Carolyn Wysinger, Commissioner*

Monday, July 28, 2014 at 6:30 pm  
City Council Chambers, Community Services Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

*PRESENT:* Chairperson Jones, Vice Chair Joyce Harris, Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluitt, Commissioner Carole Johnson, Commissioner Crystal Johnson and Commissioner Wysinger. (Commissioner Cummings arrived late.)

*ABSENT:* None.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

The Agenda is accepted as presented.

**OPEN FORUM #1**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, to accept the February 2014, March 2014, April 2014, and June 2014 meeting minutes as written with the exception to make changes if they come up in the future. The Commission voted to approve the motion unanimously.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Cummings.

A motion was made by Chairperson Jones, seconded by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, to accept the minutes from the July 11 Retreat. The Commission voted to approve the motion.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Cummings. **ABSTENTION:** Vice Chair Harris (Vice Chair Harris explained that she is abstaining because she did not attend the full duration of the retreat.)

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Council Liaison Beckles was not present at the meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

None.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairperson Jones reported about her recent retreat at UC Santa Barbara sponsored by the California Endowment. The retreat focused on girls' education and women's rights. In addition, Chairperson Jones reported that there was little to no representation from Richmond. She requested Vice Chair Harris to collaborate with California Endowment and Richmond Healthy Communities to engage and connect Richmond youth in future retreats and gatherings.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Assistant Attorney Mr. Jenkins reported about the City Council's decision regarding Chevron's plan to upgrade its refinery in Richmond. In addition, Mr. Jenkins recommended the members of the Commission to watch Mr. Devone Boggan's interview on MSNBC and the new film "When the Game Stands Tall," which is about De la Salle's football program and their star-player Terrance Kelly.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**K.1 COMMITTEE REPORT: PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET (30 MINUTES)**  
FOLLOW UP AND HEAR REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSION RETREAT  
*Chairperson Jones*

Chairperson Jones framed the item. Chairperson followed up on some of the items from the Retreat. The current budget for the Commission is at \$15,000. She also raised concerns regarding membership benefits of California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) and International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA). The HRHRC pays annual membership fee of \$150 to CAHRO and \$250 to IAOHRA. Commissioner Burrus-Wright suggested looking into alternative membership options. This concern will be revisited when the Planning, Administration, and Budget Committee presents the FY Budget 2014/15. The Commission considered organizing another retreat early in 2015. At this retreat, the Commission will discuss goals and objectives of the existing and newly created committees. After discussion, Commissioners signed up for committees that they are interested in.

| <b><i>HRHRC Committee Assignment</i></b> |   |
|--|---|
| Planning, Administration, and Budget     | Chair: Jasmine Jones<br>Members: Carolyn Wysinger                               |
| Education and Outreach                   | Chair: Dr. Betty Burrus-Wright<br>Members: Joyce Harris and 3 community members |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Culture of Peace               | Chair:<br>Members: Carolyn Wysinger, Carole Johnson  |
| Emergency Concerns             | Chair: Crystal Johnson<br>Members:                   |
| Police and Community Relations | Chair: Carole Johnson<br>Members: Courtney Cummings  |
| Health and Welfare             | Chair: Texanita Bluitt<br>Members: Courtney Cummings |

**K.2 COMMITTEE REPORT: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (10 MINUTES)**

HEAR AND APPROVE REPORT

*Commissioner Burrus-Wright and Vice Chair Harris*

Committee Chair Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported that she has been in communication with the local elementary school teachers. She also acknowledged that the Burrus-Wright family has made generous contributions to the education programs last year. This year, the Education and Outreach committee will be working with the following four elementary schools: Riverside, Olinda, Caesar Chavez, and Stege.

The Committee reported the successes of the last year's Human Rights Day Celebration and Awards Ceremony and made an announcement that they have already began organizing the next ceremony that will take place in December 2015. Vice Chair Harris reported that they have a compiled list of local businesses to ask for contributions. She also made a note that the raised funds will be used exclusively for the Human Rights Awards Celebration.

**K.3 PROPOSAL TO "DOWNSIZE" DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER (10 MINUTES)**

HEAR UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED SOLUTION BY CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOHN GOIA, THE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION COALITION, AND DMC'S BOARD TO 'DOWNSIZE' THE HOSPITAL TO A 'STAND-ALONE' EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

*Commissioner Carole Johnson*

The following members of the public spoke on this item:

Mr. Cordell Hindler presented a poem and noted that the Doctors Medical Center's services are catered to the needs of the West County residents and it would be devastating for the members of the community if the center is closed.

Commissioner Carole Johnson framed the item and reported updates on the issue. She expressed her concerns regarding the use of tax revenue not being used to keep the Doctors Medical Center (DMC) open but being used to increase salary for some West County officials. She invited members of the Commission to the weekly demonstration at the front of the DMC on Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Carole Johnson will report on the item at the next Regular Meeting in August.

**K.4 HRHRC RESOLUTIONS FROM 2013 – 2014 (5 MINUTES)**

HEAR UPDATES AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON PASSED HRHRC RESOLUTIONS

*Chairperson Jones*

Chairperson Jones requested staff to create a packet that includes HRHRC resolutions from January 2013 – July 2014 and HRHRC Ordinance. - *Continued to August 25, 2014 Regular Meeting.*

**K.4 SHOWCASING RICHMOND CALIFORNIA: A HUMAN RIGHTS CITY (10 MINUTES)**  
DISCUSS WAYS TO INCREASE RECOGNITION AT THE STATE LEVEL AND DISCUSS CITY RECOGNITION AND HOW TO GET IN THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

*Commissioner Burrus-Wright*

Commissioner Burrus-Wright reported about ways to increase the visibility of the Commission. The Commission discussed the following suggestions to showcase Richmond as a Human Rights City:

- Create a quarterly report/newsletter from the HRHRC to the community (Schools, libraries, churches, etc)
- Create sign up sheets at meetings to compile a list of subscribers
- Launch a blog about the works and programs of the HRHRC to inform and educate the public about the HRHRC mission

**REPORTS**

**L.1 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES (IAOHRA)**  
UPDATE: LETTER SUBMITTED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT CALLING FOR FEDERAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

**OPEN FORUM #2**

Mr. Cordell Hindler presented a poem and supported having young people on the HRHRC.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS: Retreat 2.0 in 2015, Revisiting the HRHRC 2014/15 calendar, Networking with other HRCs, and Recruitment for Commissioners,

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting in July 2014 was adjourned at 9:10 p.m., to meet again on **Monday, August 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** in City Council Chambers.