



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday September 23, 2013

**5:30 – 8:00 pm in City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701**

Chair Paul Rhea called the Commission Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Paul Rhea, Chair

DeWayne Lofton

Elizabeth Brenner

Jonathan Luu

Sara Clark

Human Resources Department Staff Present:

Joya Hayes, Assistant Director, Human Resources

Jonathan Babiak, Administrator, Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EE/FHO)

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

- a. Lucian Villaseñor, citizen, recommended legislation to fire APD Detective Kleinert, the officer involved in the latest shooting of an unarmed citizen in July 2013.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 26, 2013 regular meeting were approved on a 5-0 vote; Commissioner Brenner motion, Commissioner Clark seconded. Commission members Cortez and Reynolds were absent.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of possible recommendations to the City Council related to the presentation by Nelson Linder, President, NAACP, Austin Branch, and resolutions proposed by Mr. Linder related to economic disparities in Austin's African American Communities, Austin Police Department policies and programs that may disparately impact African Americans including use of force and deadly force policies, and additional oversight over the Austin Police Department by City Council.

- i. Pat Siebert, citizen, spoke of APD Chief Acevedo's comments on a recent community meeting. The quote was, "Tell your children not to run from police officers; there are bad things that could happen if they do." Mr. Siebert believes the Chief missed the opportunity to bring together the community. Mr. Siebert would like the Chief and the Assistant Chiefs to comply with the current laws about pursuit and the communication and de-escalation training recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice report.
 - ii. Richard Boland, citizen, believes that it is time to change tactics. Mr. Boland would like to see a private prosecutor to represent Mr. Jackson's family to prosecute Detective Kleinert.
 - iii. Richard Franklin, citizen and President of Youth Unlimited, is proposing to the Human Rights Commission to recommend the City Council to fund Mr. Franklin's in-school and after school entrepreneurship program for African American males.
 - iv. Assistant Police Chief Troy Gay, APD, responded to questions from the dais about the training that is required of APD police officers. Assistant Chief Gay offered to return for the October Human Rights Commission meeting to provide additional information on training with regard to racial profiling, use of force, and discipline.
- b. Discussion related to membership in the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies. The item was tabled until Commissioner Cortez could be available to participate in the discussion.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion on a request for the Human Rights Commission to become a sponsor of the Transgender Day of Remembrance 2013 on November 20, 2013 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. A discussion clarified that the Human Rights Commission could not vote to be the sponsors but could request that the City Council allow them to be a sponsor of the event.
 - i. Vote to recommend to City Council to authorize the Human Rights Commission to sponsor the Transgender Day of Remembrance was unanimously passed, 5-0. Commissioner Brenner motion, Commissioner Luu seconded. Commissioners Cortez and Reynolds were absent.

5. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The status of the Commission's goals and objectives for 2013.
 - i. It was proposed that new questions be constructed that would be more specific to speak with community groups. The community groups will be invited to the November meeting to participate in the discussion.

6. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. The Austin Human Rights Commission Facebook page is now active.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Discussion on APD Training with regard to racial profiling, use of force, and discipline.
- b. Training on the overview of the complaint process from EE/FHO staff.
- c. Discussion with City legal staff to sponsor other external events without first requesting authorization from City Council.
- d. Election of Commission Officers for fiscal year 2014.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Follow up to April resolution passed regarding the Asian American Pacific Islander population. One of the issues brought forward was transportation issues faced by the community. The City of Austin has designated the Asian American Resource Center as a new drop off location for the Meals on Wheels program.
- b. Follow up to June meeting during which the Commission passed an LGBT resolution. One of the recommendations was for the Austin Police Department to add an LGBT community liaison position. APD has added this position for the 2014 budget year.
- c. Commissioner Reynolds has been notified by the City Clerk's Office effective August 27, 2013 that he can serve for a maximum of 60 days pending a new appointment by Council Member Chris Riley.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm without objection.