



**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
MINUTES – AUGUST 28, 2012**

**Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) Hearing Room  
2550 Ventura Ave., Room Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Gina Channell-Allen, Patricia Boyd, Evelyn Cheatham (Vice-Chair), Judy Rice (Chair), Chris Rohde, Faith Ross, Kathleen Shaffer, Dmitra Smith, Art Warmoth (Officer-at-Large), Ann Zimmer, Donna Zapata.

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Gail Jonas

**STAFF PRESENT:** Laurie Marincik

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Jill Ravitch – Sonoma County District Attorney

**I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS:** Rice called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and read the Commission Mission Statement. Commissioners introduced themselves by name and district they represent.

**II. CONSENT ITEMS:**  
Approval of August 28, 2012 Agenda. Motion to approve.

Motion: Commissioner Zimmer	AYES: 10	NOES: 0
Second: Commissioner Cheatham	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAINED: 0

Motion passed.

Approval of July 24, 2012 Draft Minutes. Motion to approve.

Motion: Commissioner Warmoth	AYES: 10	NOES: 0
Second: Commissioner Rohde	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAINED: 1

Motion passed.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:**

None.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chair Rice mentioned to the Commission she participated in a Virtual Dementia Tour put on by Sunrise Assisted Living in Petaluma. She would like to invite Sunrise to present this virtual tour and conduct training on the effects of aging to the Commission.

Chair Rice asked the Commission if they were interested in receiving the training. 10 members of the Commission were interested in this Dementia training program. Rohde suggested we consider having this speaker and training as part of the Strategic Planning meeting in November.

**V. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

- Currently there is one vacancy each in the Fourth District and Fifth Districts.
- Chair Rice announced the resignation of Elizabeth McCarthy of the Fifth District.
- Chair Rice swore in Dmitra Smith from the First District.

**VI. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Speaker – Sonoma County District Attorney** – District Attorney Jill Ravitch who is the Fiscal and Financial Agent of the Family Justice Center addressed the Commission on the operation of the District Attorney’s office with her main focus on the Family Justice Center.

Although the center is under the auspices of the District Attorney’s office, the Family Justice Center is not considered a government entity. The center is comprised of representatives of the District Attorney’s office and other governmental agencies together with Law Enforcement and different advocacy groups who are all present at one location which is 2755 Mendocino Avenue.

The individuals who make up the inside of the center are: Members of the Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Task Force of the Santa Rosa Police Department and the Sheriff’s office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. It is planned to have the Redwood Children’s Center at this same location starting in January 2013 working under the auspice of Human and Health Services. Advocates who provide services are located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Center.

Services provided are: child abuse intervention, Verity providing sexual assault intervention; YWCA assisting with family violence; Council on Aging providing senior and elder abuse victim services; Legal Aid of Sonoma County providing legal assistance with restraining orders, etc.; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services; Catholic Charities who assist with Visas to assist with temporary aid while working through their status; and Inter-Tribal Council assisting with victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Ms. Ravitch announced the 1-year Anniversary Celebration of the Family Justice Center on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Chair Rice requested from the Commission a vote on a private tour of DA’s office and the Family Justice Center for the future. Rice will inquire with the FJC on what times are available for tour: during the day, evening, and weekends.

- **Request for Resolution** – Commissioner Rohde announced to the Commission he was approached by James Bleifus, a Desert Storm Veteran from Sonoma State University, who is organizing a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Grove at SSU. Mr. Bleifus requested Commissioner Rohde bring a resolution to the CHR for support. Rohde read the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Rohde motioned for approval to support the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary resolution as written.

Motion: Commissioner Rohde	AYES: 11 NOES: 0
Second: Commissioner Warmoth	ABSENT: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution on AB 1081 TRUST Act** (Warmoth)

The most recent update from Michael Allen’s office is, the Bill is about to go forth with final signatures from the State. Warmoth forwarded our resolution to the Governor and to all our local legislators. He sent the resolution to the Board of Supervisors Chair, Shirlee Zane with a memo regarding the status of AB 1081.

Each Supervisor will need to endorse the resolution before it goes to the Board for presentation. As of today, both Supervisors Carrillo and McGuire have already approved and endorsed AB 1081.

➤ **Strategic Planning Meeting**

- Strategic planning will be pushed out to November because of the two events coming up in September and October. By November we will have a better idea of items to plan and organize for 2013. Planning would include upcoming 2013 planning.
- Rice requested the Commission provide Staff within the next two weeks their general schedules for the first three weeks in November.
- Agenda will include: Team Building, Dementia Virtual Tour, and Strategic Planning

➤ **Budget**

- Approval of the Draft Budget as amended due to several changes.
- Chair Rice requested that when considering items to bring before the CHR, Commissioners consider the potential direct and secondary budgetary impact such items have on our budget.
- We received good news regarding the security services invoice from the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Accounting and Sheriff's Department originally billed us for \$2684.22 but it was discovered there was a mistake when the bill was interpreted. We are now being billed half the amount which is \$1342.11. Chair Rice will verify this by tomorrow and update the CHR at the September meeting.
- In the earlier days of the CHR, we had the James Coffee Awards and the proceeds over the years have been held by the Volunteer Center. We originally were told there was over \$9,000 in the account. The language in the original agreement however, said the money in this account is to be split with the Human Rights Commission and Listening for a Change.
- Rice mentioned that Christina Cramer from HR confirmed the extra \$4500 from the Coffee Awards is to be used for educational purposes only. Three items that potentially fall under this category: Another Open Forum, Junior Commission, and the Museum CHR History project. These funds will be treated differently and will not fall under the same rules as our current budget dictated by the County policies.
- Chair Rice reviewed the proposed expenses allotted for each subject item in the budget. This budget has been attached to the 8-28-12 Agenda. The next version of the drafted budget will include the Coffee funds.
- Junior Commission budget will go toward the design of the flyer with a logo; training conducted by Community Matters and Rick Phillips with the subject of *bullying* in the school system. This training will run approximately \$1,000 for all the Jr. Commissioners.

Motion to approve the current updated budget as it stands format.

Motion: Commissioner Zapata	AYES: 10	NOES: 0
Second: Commissioner Zimmer	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAINED: 0

Motion passed.

**Updates from Offline Meetings of Ad Hoc Committees**

- **Sonoma Counterpoints #2 Event - Immigration** – (Rice, Channell-Allen, Warmoth, Jonas)  
Chair Rice gave an update regarding the Open Forum. Shirlee Zane has agreed to be the keynote speaker. Rollie Atkinson will be our Moderator. Rice gave the generic format of the forum.

It is important to remember this is a neutral event and not a Pro-Immigration forum however, we will discuss everything to do with Immigration. We will offer opportunities from all sides of the public to provide questions and we will screen them for valid content. We will have a dozen questions as back up if the public doesn't provide a well-rounded set of questions. Chair Rice would like the CHR turn in suggested questions within the next 48 hours.

- **Economic Rights** (Warmoth, Zimmer) – Commissioner Zimmer & Warmoth presented concrete objectives for this ad hoc, timelines, and milestones. The goal is to create a full report concerning Economic Rights programs by the end of the year. This report will be a snapshot of what other organizations feel is necessary regarding economic rights in Sonoma County such as what

currently exists and what is recommended for the future. Once the information has been gathered and compiled in a report, at that point we recommend having a conference with these organizations. Warmoth outlines the report will cover food, shelter, and education. This process will include interviews, and it is our goal to recruit SSU students in these interviews as a part of this reporting process.

- **Junior Commission** (Rice, Rohde, Cheatham) – Chair Rice reported the kick-off event of the Diversity Summit will be on October 20, 2012. Save-the-date letters have gone out to 72 High Schools and emails to a couple of hundred organizations of the event; graphic designer is working on designing the flier and logo for the Junior Commission. Rice is currently working on putting together speakers and participants in the meeting. She will give more details closer to the event.
- **Rights of Undocumented workers and families** (Warmoth, Jonas, Shaffer) – Commissioner Warmoth reported the three most pressing issues are deportations, drivers licenses, and education. We passed two versions of the resolution for AB 1081 within the Commission, but we are currently waiting to see what happens to the bill in the State and the Senate before finalizing for the vetting with the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Zapata asked to be removed from this Committee.
- **Sonoma County Museum** – Rice, Channell-Allen, Boyd, Ross) – Chair Rice reported after discussions with Commissioner Ross, she contacted the Sonoma County Museum and they are interested in the CHR putting together an exhibit on the history of Human Rights in Sonoma County. The time projection is twelve to eighteen months out.
- **Tabling and Events** – (Warmoth, Boyd) – The CHR participated in the Festival of Neighborhoods and set up a booth to get the word out about the Human Rights Commission. They were able to pass out the remaining t-shirts and interview the public. More than half of the people did not know about the Human Rights Commission so this was a worthwhile endeavor to introduce ourselves and speak about what we do.

Chair Rice asked if we will set up a booth at the Harvest Fair. Commissioner Warmoth needs to get more information about this event, and would like to develop a calendar of events to give to the Commissioners for them to volunteer to participate in these events, and also provide this for the public.

Commissioner Warmoth would like to continue to use the t-shirts but change the design. One of the Commissioners suggested we have a question and answer contest to win a t-shirt at the events; Commissioner Zimmer suggested a contest for the best graphic design/logo for the T-shirt including logo for the Diversity Summit. This item will be placed on the September Agenda.

## **IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

### **Partnerships with Organizations & Agencies**

- **Family Justice Center Liaison** (Zapata) – Commissioner Zapata announced the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Family Justice Center coming up on October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Cinco de Mayo** (Warmoth, Schaffer, Boyd) – Nothing to report at this time.
- **Disability** (Zimmer) – Human dignity film festival – Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> theme will be War Veterans.
- **Human Trafficking** (Zimmer) – Commissioner Zimmer did not attend the meeting.
- **North Bay Organizing Project Immigrant Task Force (NBOP ITF)** (Jonas) Nothing to report.

## **X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:**

## **XI. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**XII. NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 5:30 P.M. at the Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) Hearing Room.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Rice adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.