

**MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2007
7:00 P.M.**
Council Chambers
34009 Alvarado-Niles Rd.
Union City, CA 94587

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Pro Tempore Mitra convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Pro Tem Mitra, Commissioner Cabiles, Commissioner Gates-Anderson, Commissioner Hsu.

Absent: Chairperson Guio (excused absence due to work)

III. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: New HRC Alternate Commissioner Chaitali Nadig

Alternate Commissioner Chaitali Nadig accepted the Oath of Office. Deputy City Manager Acosta administered the oath.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 29, 2006

Approved 4-0.

V. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS -- None

VII. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy City Manager Acosta presented two items: The Sister Cities International Quarterly and a brochure for the Annual Sister City Conference scheduled for July 18 – 21, 2007 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEMS

- Gang Violence – Report by HRC Sub-Committee and Presentation by UCPD

DCM Acosta introduced Detective Stan Rodrigues, UCPD's member of the Southern Alameda County Gang Violence Task Force, who gave an audio-visual presentation regarding criminal street gang activities in Union City and answered questions from the Commission.

Following the presentation and discussion, DCM Acosta suggested that a good follow-up for the HRC Sub-Committee to establish contact with the administration at Logan High School to start pursuing some gang violence workshops (as had been suggested earlier) and that these workshops could possibly be funded through the pooled funding resource. This could be done right away since the money is budgeted for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Commissioner Cabiles added that she and Commissioner Hsu had discussed this at the last meeting.

- City of Fremont's Community Forum – Report (by whichever HRC Commissioner attends)

Chairperson Guio and Commissioner Gates-Anderson both attended the event. Commissioner Gates-Anderson related that clips from the “Not In Our Town” documentaries were shown during the forum and that the producer of the documentaries was present and led the discussion. There was also a panel discussion with people from various ethnic groups sharing their specific experiences.

Chair Pro Tem Mitra stated that he had attended the City of Fremont's last HRC Meeting at the invitation of Fremont HRC Commissioner, Raj Salwan. They discussed that there should be some interaction between the Union City and Fremont HRCs to see how the two commissions could partner together.

DCM Acosta suggested that the simplest way to accomplish this would be for a member of the HRC to volunteer to periodically attend Fremont's Commission meetings and that Fremont could do the same.

Commissioner Cabiles suggested that coordinating a joint meeting between the two commissions should be pursued. DCM Acosta stated that City staff could contact the City of Fremont's HRC coordinator to begin an email string or brief discussion to find out what Fremont's interest would be in a joint HRC meeting. A report could be brought back to the commission at the February 2007 meeting with Fremont's response and possibly some time options for when it could possibly occur, if the commission was interested in pursuing the joint meeting idea.

Chair Pro Tem Mitra stated that he planned to attend the February meeting of Fremont's HRC and that he would report his findings back to the UC HRC.

B. TRACKING ITEMS

- Union City's 50th Anniversary Celebration

DCM Acosta noted that 50th Anniversary Celebration sub-committees were actively recruiting for new members. Commissioner Cabiles reported on activities by the Gala Committee. The committee met on January 12th and that six teams were established, along with team leaders selected. The teams are investigating venues for the events in 2008 and

the development of protocols for the events. The next Gala Committee meeting will be held on February 8, 2007.

DCM Acosta suggested that the HRC Commissioners not already affiliated with the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee could be added to the email lists for meeting announcements and other information.

The next meeting of the UC 50th Anniversary Committee will be on Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

- Use of Pooled Funding

DCM Acosta stated that there has been no financial activity since the last meeting. No detailed reports were available from the city's Administrative Services Department due to the fact that they were engaged in audits from the IRS and PERS, as well as, assembling and issuing the city's CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report). He also noted that funds were still available, but that this pool of money would go away at the end of the current Fiscal Year. He also noted that there is no guarantee that this money would reappear in next year's budget.

- Volunteer of the Year (or Volunteer Recognition Program [title of program to be decided])

Commissioner Gates-Anderson suggested that a tentative meeting date for the Volunteer of the Year Steering Committee kick-off meeting should be decided on. This date could then be included in the solicitation of prospective members letter drafted by Commissioner Gates-Anderson.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

DCM Acosta reported that an ordinance was introduced and accepted by the City Council for its first reading at their meeting of Tuesday, January 23, 2007. This ordinance establishes attendance standards and will effect all City Commissions. Basically, draft ordinance states that any commissioner who misses three consecutive meetings, or more than 25% of the total meetings in any 12-month period will lose their seat on that commission.

Protocols for contacting staff were established, generally, that a 48-hour advance notice is required to be reported to the recording secretary in order for the absence to be considered "excused". There is a set of specific criteria determining what absences are excused. These range from a serious illness/injury to death in the family to unavoidable business activity. Other excusable absences would include complete lack of transportation and planned vacations where travel is involved.

This ordinance is expected to be adopted by the City Council at their meeting on February 13, 2007.

X. FUTURE AGENDA

Action Items include Gang Violence (Community Forum), Volunteer of the Year, Election of Chair (and Vice Chair, if allowable under By-Laws), and Discussion of Joint Meeting with Fremont HRC.

Tracking Items include UC 50th Anniversary, Pooled Funding, and Sister Cities Update (by Chairperson Guio).

XI. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.