



Orange County Human Relations Commission

1300 S. Grand, Bldg. B, Santa Ana
7:00 PM, Thursday, January 12, 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rabbi Rick Steinberg, Dr. Chiarina Piazza, Sean Thomas, C. William Wood, Dr. Kerry Reynolds

ABSENT: Becky Esparza, Chief Mike Hamel, Elliot Singer

STAFF: Alison Edwards, Rusty Kennedy, Norma López, Don Han

GUESTS: Leon Page – County Counsel, Michelle Cook & Arie Dana – Sup. Steele's Office, Sue Reese, Ken Inouye

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Chair, who sent well wishes to Chair Esparza who is ill and thanked Commissioner Wood for his years of service upon the occasion of his last meeting.
2. M/S/C to approve the minutes
3. Vice Chair Steinberg reported on the Monthly Summary of Commission Activities and acknowledged the first meeting with new Commission Director, Norma Lopez; she reported on a gathering at a Mission Viejo park that had been vandalized with white supremacist graffiti, many people of many different faiths attended to send a message of unity.
4. Leon Page, Office of County Counsel, provided a presentation on the Ralph M. Brown Act.

OPEN FORUM

The Chair recognized guests, who introduced themselves, but did not address the Commission.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Commissioner Thomas gave an update on activities of the Hate Free OC Campaign: responding to hate crimes and incidents, providing outreach presentations in English and Spanish, collecting stories and pictures of OC residents to tell the diverse stories of the county.
6. Commissioner Wood asked for and received reports on scheduled visits.
7. M/S/C to approve Commission support for OC Interfaith Network's Forum Series called "Not in Our Name"
8. Director Lopez gave a report on the follow-up to the August OC Solidarity March and Summit. The organizers are in favor of promoting restorative justice dialogues across the county.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. Director Lopez shared that Commission staff person James Armendaris has retired and Don Han has stepped up to fill that position. Joyce Sanchez will also staff the Commission full-time.
10. Staff Rusty Kennedy reported on a press conference that he and inter-faith leaders participated in at the Orange Crescent School in which the school's students responded to hate mail that the school received.
11. Director Lopez shared that the dialogues between the Santa Ana Police Department and residents of the Cedar-Evergreen neighborhood have been scheduled for the January 23, 24 and 31. Dialogues between Tustin Police Department and Tustin youth are also in the planning stages.
12. Staff Don Han gave a report on their first Implicit Bias training, the audience was the Executive Team of the Department of Child Support Services, the evaluations showed a significant improvement in participant's understanding of their own biases and their impact.
13. Commissioner Piazza invited Commissioners to submit nominations for AWARDS 46 by January 20th.
14. The articles on human relations issues were reviewed by Commissioner Reynolds.
15. During the announcements Commissioner Thomas offered his congratulations to and endorsement of Director Lopez. The rest of the Commissioners also offered their congratulations.
16. Vice Chair Steinberg adjourned the meeting at 8:44pm.