

**County of Kern
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION-MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting
Monday June 18, 2012**

Commissioners Present: Linda Carrick(lc), Marisa Banks(mb), Tomeka Powell(tp), Carmen Bernal(cb), Marcus Mitchell (mm), Andre Taylor(at), Jewelle Scales(js)

Commissioners Absent: Kathy Stobert, Deborah Hess, Ed Herrera

Others Present: EEO Officer Michael Goulart (mg)

Meeting called to order at 5:30

1. **FLAG SALUTE 5:30**
2. Welcome Community members (no community members present)
3. (mm) read Human Relations Commission Mission Statement
4. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** None
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 21, 2011 regular meeting

Motion to approve by Carrick, 2nd: Bernal, All Ayes

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Discussion of Kern County Grand Jury Report on the Human Relations Commission

(mg) You have all been given a copy of the Grand Jury Report on the Human Relations Commission. As you are aware the Grand Jury visited us a couple of months ago. They are tasked with reviewing the activities of Kern County Boards and Commissions on a regular basis and this year they had an opportunity to review the Human Relations Commission.

The Grand Jury attempted to come to a meeting and we were did not have a quorum. They came to a subsequent meeting and at that time the HRC was conducting elections of officers. The findings of the report are innocuous. There are two recommendations which are non-controversial.

The recommendations are that the Commission adopts a policy to reschedule a meeting if the regular meeting date falls on a County holiday. The other recommendation is that the Board of Supervisors appoints Commissioners in a timely manner. I propose that your Commission adopts a policy in accordance with the Grand Jury's first recommendation. Options would

include meeting on the next calendar day which would make our meeting the third Tuesday of the month or the following Monday which would make our meeting the fourth Monday of the month.

The second recommendation is that the Board of Supervisors appoint Commissioners in a timely manner. The Commission does not have to respond to the second recommendation but it is reassuring to have the Grand Jury echo what the Commission has been requesting.

- (cb) Made motion to meet the following Tuesday if regular meeting date falls on a County Holiday.
- (tp) I am concerned that if the regular meeting date falls on a County holiday there may be people that are still on vacation on the following Tuesday.
- (js) I have previous board meeting that falls on the third Tuesday. The following Monday would work.
- (cb) Amended motion that the Human Relations Commission meet on the fourth Monday on the month if the regular meeting date (third Monday) falls on a County holiday.
- (lc) Seconded motion

All ayes; motion passes

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Discussion of Kern County expulsion rates
- (mm) I drafted a letter requesting more information from the Kern High School District requesting that they have a representative attend a future HRC meeting to discuss expulsion rates in Kern County. Commissioner Mitchell shared a draft letter with the Commission.

After discussion of content of letter, Commissioner Bernal made a motion to send a revised letter to the Kern High School District. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

All ayes; motion passes.

- b) Discussion of Annual Essay Contest
- (mm) We talked last meeting about moving the Essay contest to the fall. Commissioner Herrera was the Chair of the committee and Commissioner Hess is also on the committee. We discussed conducting the contest during the first quarter of the school year. Do we want to form a subcommittee to work on the contest?

(cb) I think we should contact Commissioner Hess ask her to start the coordination and give her a timeframe of what the Commissioners would like.

(mm) The chair is Herrera. The other Commissioners are Hess, Powell, Bernal, and Banks. Of the Commissioners that are present are any of you interested in being the chair since Commissioner Herrera is waiting to see if he is reappointed?

(tp) Commissioner Hess has been on the committee for a while and she has more information than I would have.

(mm) I will try to make contact with her.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Community & Media Outreach – Hess, Chair, No report

b) Education/Essay Contest – Herrera, Chair, Hess - No report

c) Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action – No report

d) Grants/Funding – No report

e) Housing – Commissioner Carrick, Chair – No report

f) Judicial & Legislative Review – No report

g) Law Enforcement - Herrera, Chair - No report

h) Special Issues – No report

i) Access and Functional Needs – No report

j) Annual Report Ad-hoc Committee – Mitchell, Chair – No report

Commissioner Taylor requested to be added to Committee.

k) Training/Mentor program Ad-Hoc Committee – Bernal, Mitchell – No report

9. **STAFF REPORT:** No report.

10. **COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

(cb) After five years with the United Way I have transitioned into a new job and I started with Garden Pathways as Director of Program Operations. I am looking forward to the challenge of working on issues related to homelessness, domestic violence and gang prevention.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn: Carrick, 2nd: Powell, All Ayes, meeting adjourned