

Kern County Human Relations Commission
Kern County Administrative Complex – Civil Service Commission Hearing Room – First Floor
1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield
Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 5:30 Pm
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Caves (Cav), Brady Bernhart (Ber), Joseph Snyder (Sny), Louis Medina (Med), David Vivas (Viv), Henry Castaneda (Cas), Jewelle Scales (Sca), Marcus Mitchell (Mit)

Absent: None

Others Present: Michael Goulart (Mg) Equal Employment Opportunity Officer

Agenda Items: Called To Order at 5:30 Pm

1. Flag Salute: Commissioner Snyder.

2. Public Presentations: None

3. Approval of Minutes:

Tuesday July 14, 2015. **Motion to approve: Snyder Second: Castaneda Vote: All Ayes,**

4. New Business:

a) Consideration of participation in Kern County Veterans' Stand Down

(Med) Commissioner Medina discussed the Kern County Veterans' Stand Down, events and activities. There were over 500 attendees at the event in 2014 and Commissioner Medina said the event will offer a good opportunity for community outreach and networking with community service providers. Commissioner Medina told the Commission that the event will be on Thursday October 8, 2015.

(Sny) Commissioner Snyder stated that he could attend the event.

(Med) Commissioner Medina stated that he will be at the event.

(Cav) Commissioner Caves stated that he will be working on the Veterans' Court during the event.

(Cas) Commissioner Castaneda asked what type of activities the Commission would do at the Stand Down?

(Med) Commissioner Medina stated that the HRC could hand out the Proposition 47 Resource Guide and perform general outreach to the community.

Commissioner (Snyder) made a **MOTION** for the Commission to participate in the Veterans' Stand Down event. Commissioner (Castaneda) **SECONDED** the motion. Vote: **ALL AYES**

b) Distribution planning for Proposition 47 Resource Guide

(Med) Commissioner Medina stated that he is putting the final touches on the Resource Guide.

(Cav) Commissioner Caves asked if there is a way to track how many copies of the Guide are distributed at various locations.

(Mit) Commissioner Mitchell recommended that the Commission perform a trial distribution and prepare a distribution plan, as well as presenting the Guide and distribution plan to the Board of Supervisors.

c) Presentation from Commissioner Castaneda regarding Proposition 47 and Assembly Bill 109 as they pertain to the Kern County Sheriff's Department

(Cas) Commissioner Castaneda provided the following statistics related to Prop 47:

- Out of 2,906 applicants, 2,467 have been resentenced.
- There are 188 people that have been resentenced that are still in custody.
- 83% of the inmates incarcerated by the Sheriff's Dept are felony inmates.
- 70% of inmates are receiving mental health care.
- There has been a 30% decrease in arrests since Prop 47 went into effect.
- 22% of inmates are being committed to State mental health institutions.
- KCSO has instituted a program of services for those that are incarcerated longer.
- KCSO is using a new MATRIX model and seeing higher success rates in programs.

- KCSO has an incarcerated Veterans' program.
- KCSO has developed a new Sheriff's Program Specialist job classification to assist with administration of programs.

5. Old Business:

a) Planning Matrix

(Cav) Commissioner Caves said he has not confirmed the venue at CSUB for the October public engagement event and he would like to consider a venue that would be on County property.

(Med) Commissioner Medina discussed the possible need for Spanish language interpreting and potentially enlisting the Dolores Huerta Foundation for assistance.

The Commission decided to have the Community Engagement event on Thursday October 29th in the Third Floor Multi-Purpose Room at the County Administrative Center.

Commissioners also discussed submitting prepared speaking points or comments for use at the event.

6. Committee Reports:

Community and Media Outreach:

(Sca) Commissioner Scales stated that we have missed photo opportunities, as well as opportunities to publicize monthly meetings.

(Med) Commissioner Medina told the Commission that the Kern County Network for Children shares information on a list server regarding other agencies and their activities.

Housing:

(Ber) Commissioner Bernhart stated that HUD has released new rules that may have an effect of City and County housing rules. He also discussed housing segregation issues related to housing segregation maps and "redlining." Commissioner Bernhart discussed a program called

Equity Atlas 2.0 that provides information related to segregation maps. He also discussed the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

(Med) Commissioner Medina told the Commission about an article in The New Yorker related to Hurricane Katrina and how rebuilding and opportunities for self-betterment since the hurricane have varied related to the ethnic makeup of the various neighborhoods.

(Mit) Commissioner Mitchell told the Commission that he has a video series that was produced by PBS that explains and discusses the effects of “redlining.” The video series is entitled Race: The Power of an Illusion.

7. **Staff Report: None**
8. **Commission Member Presentations or Announcements: None**
9. **Adjournment: Motion: Caves, 2nd: Snyder, Vote: all ayes 7:00 P.M.**