

County of Kern
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION-MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Tuesday October 8, 2013

Commissioners Present: Greg Collins (gc), Fiona Lytle (fl), Andre Taylor (at), Jewelle Scales (js) Marissa Banks (mb), David Vivas (dv)

Commissioners Absent: Manuel Cantu, Walter Williams, Marcus Mitchell

Equal Employment Opportunity Officer: Michael Goulart (mg)

Others Present: Francis Moore

1. **FLAG SALUTE**
2. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: None**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 13, 2013 Monthly Meeting

Motion to approve minutes with correction (fl), 2nd: (at), all ayes, Commissioner Vivas abstained

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

(mg) I am pleased to introduce David Vivas as a new member of the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Vivas was appointed by Supervisor Gleason. Would you like to introduce yourself and tell us a little about yourself?

(dv) My name is David Vivas Jr. I am Pastor of World Harvest Church International in Delano. I am on the Community Law Enforcement Liaison Board in Delano. I look forward to contributing what I can to the Commission and it is an honor just to be asked to serve.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

a) Discussion of High school suspension/expulsion rate issue

(mg) Commissioner Mitchell contacted me and indicated that he is ill. It was expected that he would have information to share regarding sending a letter to Kern High School District with the recommendations that were discussed last month.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Community & Media Outreach – No report.

b) Education/Essay Contest –

Commissioner Lytle passed out two information sheets for Commissioners to use when meeting with school representatives. One information sheet discussed sponsorship for the event.

(mg) Are the sponsorship amounts correct?

(fl) The correct amounts are: Platinum \$1000, Gold \$500, Silver \$250 and Bronze \$100.

(fl) I also added the ability for a sponsor to include a promotional item to be handed out to attendees. I will put together a timeline for next month's meeting and be talking to those that have signed up to help in different areas of the contest.

(mb) Bakersfield College has not responded yet in regard to the specific date. The dates that are available are March 13, 20, and 27. The Renegade Room seats 80 maximum and we have to guarantee 50.

(js) I would suggest that you include your signature on the letter and the County Seal and include a salutation. Other than that it looks great.

(fl) I would love to have the event on March 13 if possible.

(at) What will the awards be?

(fl) The awards will be savings bonds and plaques to the top three winners in each category.

(mb) What is the budget for the event?

(js) Technically, we don't have a budget for the event because we don't carry over funds from previous years.

(mb) What I mean is that we don't know what the event will cost us.

(mg) For the sake of new Commissioners, the HRC is funded out of the Personnel Department budget. It is funded for things like mileage and postings. The Essay Contest Banquet is meant to pay for itself from the money raised by ticket sales.

c) Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action – No report

d) Grants/Funding – No report

e) Housing – Commissioner – No report

f) Judicial & Legislative Review – I

(js) Immigration is still a hot topic and we may expect someone to bring related issues to us in the near future.

We also may have people come in to speak to us about the “Bathroom Bill” which is related to gender identity and the use of restroom/locker room facilities in public schools.

g) Law Enforcement – No report.

h) Special Issues – No report

i) Access and Functional Needs – No report

j) Annual Report Ad-hoc Committee – No report.

k) HRC/Community/Sheriff’s Department Ad-Hoc Committee –

(js) We are working on enhancing the community policing relationships here in Kern County. Last night we met at the Friendship House with Manuel Carazalez from Stay Focused Ministry, Sean Battle from Garden Pathways and Comm. Russ Albro, Lt. Gonzalez, and Comm. Massey from the Sheriff’s Department and other community members. Marcus Mitchell was also there.

We did some Q&A and problem solving to determine what trust issues exist and why. We talked about questions that people would ask law enforcement and many wanted to know how it feels to be law enforcement in Kern County and as a law enforcement officer, what are your fears? The people in the room understand the human side to law enforcement. That is what we want to showcase to our communities. We also want to law enforcement to see the human side of the community even when someone does something wrong.

We did some SWOT analyses and what we walked away with is that this relationship is really two sided and often times the community wants to make it one sided.

Another meeting is planned for Monday October 14, 2013 at Stay Focused Ministries on California Avenue from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. We are going to use our discussion and build the content of the modified Citizen’s Academy. We are also going to talk about sustainability and how we keep both sides engaged.

We made a lot of progress and hats are off to the Sheriff’s Department staff. They have been very open-minded and have jumped right in with ideas for engaging the community.

(mb) Did we talk about how we are going to get those that really need to to

attend the modified academy?

(js) That is one of the things that we will discuss in the sustainability piece. We will also be rolling out a pilot project in the areas that seem to have a lot of issues or topics. We have agreed that we will focus first on District 5 and Ward 1.

(mb) Was there anyone there from District 5 and Ward 1?

(js) No one other than those who were speaking. We invited the NAACP, the National Association of Brotherhood and Juan Avila from Garden Pathways. Hopefully they will be able to attend the second meeting.

(fl) Do you have a timeline for pilot implementation?

(js) We will probably discuss that at the next meeting but before we roll anything out we would like to bring it back to the Commission to see if we hit the mark.

7. STAFF REPORT:

(mg) I again want to welcome Commissioner Vivas. I look forward to working with you.

8. COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(fl) I am in charge of the Kern County Energy Summit. It will be on Wednesday November 13, 2013. We will have about 20 seats available when registration opens next Monday at 8 a.m. You can go to the KEDC.com website and they will probably be gone within the hour. The summit will include industry updates from petroleum to new vehicles to solar and wind energy.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: (at) 2nd: (fl), All Ayes, meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.