

## Minutes Human Relations Commission May 8, 2018

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Carl Hermanns, Chair  
Dino Castelli, Vice-Chair  
Beth Dietz  
Amanda Lee Faustini  
Rochelle Johns  
David Kader  
Ira King, Jr.  
Joe Rojas

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

B. J. Ayers  
Stefanie Garcia  
Jeanne Powers

**City Staff Present:**

Ginny Belousek, Diversity Manager  
Megan Hutchison, Diversity Executive Assistant  
Assistant Chief Angel Carbajal

**Call to Order**

Chair Hermanns called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – April 10, 2018 Minutes (Motion Required)**

**MOTION: Vice Chair Castelli moved to ACCEPT the minutes**

**SECOND: Commissioner Faustini**

**DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED**

**Agenda Item 3 – Police Update**

Chair Hermanns introduced Assistant Police Chief Angel Carbajal to the Commission. Assistant Chief Carbajal thanked the Commission for the invitation. He then opened the floor to the Commission to discuss any concerns regarding AR-15 rifles being placed on police motorcycles. The Commission voiced their concerns on the perception of intimidation and the show of force being created by having the rifles visible. They also questioned the need for such a high-powered weapon to be displayed openly as it is creating an atmosphere of fear. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded with a bodycam video showing how quickly a motorcycle was able to

respond to an officer involved shooting, 1 minute and 56 seconds in traffic. An active shooter situation is usually over within a matter of a few minutes. Having a motorcycle properly equipped and able to arrive on the scene quicker than a patrol car has the potential to save lives. He let the Commission know that the response from the community to date has been mixed. Many individuals find the placement of the weapon intimidating while others find it impressive. He then discussed the need to continue educating the public regarding the reasons behind the need for motorcycles to have rifles in hopes of building further trust with the community.

Chair Hermanns reminded the Commission on the recent presentation by members of the People Power group regarding Voter Rights Restoration and the Commission's desire to discuss police discretion when arresting individuals. The Commission then asked Assistant Chief Carbajal if police officers could use discretion when arresting individuals. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that the police officer's ability to use discretion depended on what type of victim. A police officer can exercise discretion only when the State is the victim. An example would be a minor caught with alcohol. If the victim is an individual or a group, the office has zero discretion. The officer has even less discretion when it comes to Domestic Violence calls. It is state law for the officer to proceed with the arrest even if the victim does not want to prosecute.

The Commission thanked Assistant Chief Angel Carbajal for attending.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Follow-up Discussion on School Funding & Test Scores**

Vice Chair Castelli reminded the commission about a previous meeting where Marie Raymond attended and informed the Commission on school funding based on a point in time letter grade scoring system. He felt the topic merited further discussion by the Commission. The Commission agreed and then discussed the negative impacts a lower level letter grade has on a school and surrounding community. The Commission decided to invite Shauna Warner, City of Tempe Neighborhood Program Manager, to a future meeting to discuss a possible partnership with the HRC and the Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Unity Grant Funding**

Ginny Belousek gave the Commission a brief history of the Unity Grants. She let them know that the Tempe Community Council originally handled the grants and the amount available for awarding was approximately \$30,000. During the 2008 financial hardship, the amount was cut and remains at \$16,000. The Commission discussed the need for additional funding and made a motion for Ginny Belousek to move forward with a budget supplemental next year to increase the Unity Grant fund back to its original amount of \$30,000.

**MOTION by Commissioner Kader**  
**SECOND by Commissioner King**  
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY Approved**

#### **Agenda Item 6 - Diversity Office Update**

Ginny Belousek informed the Commission on the new exhibit at the Tempe History Museum, Humans of Tempe. She also let them know that Chair Hermanns was invited to speak at the

opening. Chair Hermanns then read a brief description of the exhibit. Ginny mentioned that the Commission will be able to see the exhibit at the next meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> for the Ramada Dinner.

**Agenda Item 7 – Upcoming Meeting June 13, 2018**

Ginny Belousek reminded the Commission that the next meeting will be at the Tempe History Museum on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will have a short meeting which will then be followed by a Ramadan dinner hosted by Muhammed Zubair.

**Motion made by Vice Chair Castelli to adjourn the meeting  
Second by Commissioner Johns  
Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm**

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Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

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Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek