

Minutes Human Relations Commission July 16, 2020

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Thursday, July 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m., virtually through Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: +1 480-498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 854 690 173#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Kate Vawter
Vice Chair Hugo Tapia
Dino Castelli
Beth Dietz
Michelle Donati-Grayman
Jana Lynn Granillo
Ira King, Jr.
William Ortega
Joe Rojas

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Carl Hermanns
Jeanne Powers

City Staff Present:

Jonae Harrison, Equity & Inclusion Manager
Megan Hutchison, Executive Assistant to the City Manager's Office
Sharon Burlingame, Assist Police Chief

Call to Order

Chair Vawter called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – June 9, 2020

Motion made by Commissioner Castelli to approve the meeting minutes of June 9, 2020; Second by Vice Chair Tapia. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Vawter, Vice Chair Tapia, and Commissioners Dino Castelli, Beth Dietz, Michelle Donati-Grayman, Jana Lynn Granillo, Ira King, Jr., William Ortega, and Joe Rojas. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners Carl Hermanns and Jeanne Powers.

Agenda Item 3 – Police Update

Chair Vawter welcomed Assistant Police Chief Sharon Burlingame to the meeting. Assistant Chief Burlingame thanked the Commission for the invitation. She then informed the Commission on how the Police Department has been handling the recent protests. Their approach has first been to protect citizens rights, their freedom of speech, and to ensure the safety of everyone involved. Enforcing the law has been secondary. She also described how the Police Department categorizes protestors: 1. those who want to make a change and have their voices heard, 2. recreational protestors, and 3. militant protestors. She then let the Commission know that the Police Department will typically meet with the protest organizers before an event to plan, discuss intentions, expectations, and what is permissible. Many protest organizers have welcomed this collaboration and Tempe has seen several successful and peaceful protests. She then described the most recent protest at Tempe Marketplace. She informed the Commission that there have been a few issues with looting, criminal damages, and threats and that a Multiagency Command Center was created to ensure good communication and to develop a response to deter these types of incidents. The Commission inquired as to how the protest level labels are

determined and questioned the combining of the three levels together and how that gives the perception of devaluing those who are from group one and two. They also mentioned that as HRC Commissioners, they frequently get questions from the community regarding incidents in Tempe and that it would be helpful for them to be updated before those events are made public. Assistant Chief Burlingame responded that the three levels are based on research and collaboration with other agencies and that each protest is different and categorizing protestors would depend on the motivation and cause of the group. She also let the Commission know that it has been a challenge with getting information out there regarding recent events and that the Commission makes a great point in alerting them before it goes public. She will take that request back to the Executive Team to discuss further. The Commission then asked if there were currently any conversations with the Police Department regarding reform. Assistant Chief Burlingame let the Commission know that there are conversations going on within the City regarding the role of the Police Department and how to fill any voids in services to the community. They have also been discussing use of force and the Citizen Review Board.

The Commission thanked Assistant Chief Burlingame for attending the meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Winter 2021 Events

- a. MLK
- b. Unity Walk

Jonae informed the Commission that the MLK Awards ceremony and the Unity Walk will now be held virtually. Both events will be done in collaboration with the East Valley cities that we have historically partnered with for the Regional Unity Walk. The intent of the partnership is to show unification across the cities bringing energies and resources together to elevate the now virtual events. Jonae then let the Commission know that the photography for the MLK Awards had been donated and she will email the Commissioners examples of other virtual award ceremonies. She also let the Commission know that the Unity Walk will still be held on the last Saturday in January and Commissioner Dietz will be working with the schools on getting their artwork.

Agenda Item 5 – Updates

- a. COVID-19 and Equity Survey

Jonae let the Commission know that the survey end date has been extended. To date, they have received 700. Since the responses have predominately been from white women making \$100k or more, the marketing has been retooled in hopes of reaching more vulnerable populations. The responses to the survey have showcased that the current outreach to the community is ineffective. She then let the Commission know that the date for Tempe Listens had been pushed back.

- b. The Right to Breathe

Jonae informed the Commission that The Right to Breathe campaign is moving forward and there has been communication with individuals inside and outside of the City. There have even been talks of Tech Data sponsoring the data platform.

- c. Antonio Arce

Jonae notified the Commission that the City reached a settlement with the family in the amount of \$2 million.

Agenda Item 6 – HRC Structure and Vision

Chair Vawter opened the floor to discussion. The Commission discussed their mission and what actions they can take as a Commission. It was decided that a deeper dive will be done at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Chair Vawter reminded the Commission that Black Lives Matter will be attending the next meeting. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the remainder of the time will be spent on discussing action items for the HRC structure and vision. Chair Vawter let the Commission know that if they have any additional items they would like added to future agendas, they should contact Jonae Harrison.

Agenda Item 8 – Upcoming Meeting August 11, 2020

Meeting will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams

Motion made by Commissioner Castelli to adjourn the meeting

Second by Commissioner King

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Jonae Harrison