



## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

825 Fifth Street, Room 1A Eureka, California 95501

### ***Regular Meeting Agenda***

January 5, 2017 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

#### **I. Call to order:**

**II. Roll call:** Glover, Heise, Larsen, Leamon, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Smith, (1 min)

**III. Approval of minutes from regular meeting:** December 1, 2016 (3 min)

**IV. Agenda Review/Considerations** (1 min)

**V. Public Comment:** Recognition and introduction of guests and visitors (9 minutes). Public is invited to speak regarding matters not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to **three minutes** (Chair may extend time). Pursuant to Ralph M. Brown Act, Commission may not act on an item not appearing on the agenda. If a member of the public speaks and requests assistance on a non-agenda subject, the Commission may not take any action or propose any solutions, but the citizen(s) may be given a resource card for contact information relevant to their issue, the citizen(s) may be given a complaint intake form for purposes of adding to a future agenda of the next regular HRC meeting, and finally an individual commissioner may speak to the citizen(s) apart from the meeting and recommend steps they might take. Public will be allowed to speak on agenda items only at the conclusion of general commission discussion, prior to any action or vote by the commission. (2 minutes per person)

#### **VI. Special Guests-Undersheriff Honsal and Supervisor Fennell:**

Questions and discussion of issues facing Southern Humboldt County (40 minutes)  
Extend invitation to attend Feb 5, 2017 outreach event in Garberville?

**VII. Commission Communications:** (12 minutes)

- a) **Emails:** (2 min)
- b) **Regular Mail:** (1 min)
- c) **Phone Calls** (other than Message Line): (1 min)
- d) **All other announcements and communications:** Items should be brief and/or submitted to Secretary for inclusion in agenda. (4 min)

Glover-2minutes-Human Rights Day, an observation

e) **Message Line Monitoring Report and Scheduling:** (4 min)

Jan 1-15\_\_ Miller\_\_\_\_\_Jan 16-31\_\_\_\_Lochtie\_\_\_\_\_  
Feb 1-15\_\_\_\_\_Feb16-29\_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. Treasurer's Report:** (Lochtie - 1 min)

**IX. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:** (11 minutes)

- a) **Discussion Item:** Report on December, Human Rights Awareness Month activities. This concludes this committee's work unless extended. (General, 3 min)
- b) **Discussion Item:** Report of Ad hoc committee on Public Outreach preliminary ideas for Feb SoHum forum. Should this this committee's work be extended through February? (Lochtie-5 min)
- c) **Discussion item:** Larsen will present information learned at a recent meeting of the KEET board meeting regarding collaboration on videos related to Dreamers. (Larsen), 3 min)

**X. Unfinished Business:** (16 minutes)

- a) **Discussion Item, Possible Action Item:** Replacement of Vice Chair. (5 min)  
*Time for public comment immediately before any vote*  
(Heise, 5 min)
- b) **Discussion Item:** Report of actions taken by the BOS regarding future composition of and departmental relationship of HRC. Ordinance and approval still to come. (Glover, 5 min)

c) **Discussion Item:** Report on the distribution of MyWord commentary to media.  
(Glover, 3 min)

d) **Discussion Item, Possible Action Item:** Consideration of an endorsement policy for individuals or ballot measures in all elections. Proposed language of policy.  
(General, 3 min)

#### **XI. New Business:** (15 minutes)

a) **Discussion Item, Possible Action Item:** Revisions of HRC Planning Guide. Shall we reschedule, cancel, or otherwise modify the remainder of the 2016-2017 activity guide?  
*Time for public comment immediately before any vote*  
(General, 7 min)

b) **Discussion Item:** Appoint ad hoc committee to plan a Women's History event for March.  
(Glover, 3 min)

c) **Discussion item, Possible Action Item:** Policy governing consideration endorsement of political candidates and / or issues. Chair to present draft possibilities for on-going policy which would be added to commissioner packets.  
*Time for public comment immediately before any vote*  
(Glover, 5 min)

#### **XII. Agenda Suggestions for February 2, 2017 regular meeting or future agendas:**

Record-keeping policies consideration

Consideration of creation of Facebook page or some similar social media exposure.

#### **XIII. Adjournment.**

*Meeting room is wheelchair accessible and disabled parking is available in the lot at 5th & K Streets directly below the access ramp of the Courthouse. If you are a person with a disability and need disability-related modifications or accommodation to participate in a meeting, please contact the HRC at 707-268-2548. Requests for such modification or accommodation must be made at least two full business days before start of the meeting.*

*As officials appointed by a legislative body (Humboldt County Board of Supervisors), members of the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission (HCHRC) have an obligation to understand, follow and abide by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) and to ensure that everything the HCHRC does is open and available to the public for review. It is important for the HCHRC and all commissioners to follow the intent of the law as well as any legal rulings. To that end, the HCHRC has adopted guidelines for the use of any technology, especially email. The entire email policy is available on our website. 110/120*

## ***DRAFT Minutes*** **December 1, 2016**

**Call to Order:** 5:02 pm

**Roll call:**

Present- Glover, Leamon, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee,

Absent- Larsen, Heise, Smith

One guest, Elle Snowe

**Approval of minutes:**

September 1, Regular Meeting

*M/Munsee, S/Lochtie to approve as amended,*

*Approved Y-5, N-0, A-0*

**Agenda Review/Considerations:** There were no alterations to the agenda.

**Public Comments:**

There were no comments from the public.

**Special Presentation:**

Elle Snowe, an invited guest, made a half hour presentation on human sex trafficking. She highlighted her experience and escape from this kind of situation and pointed out the pervasive nature of this crime statewide and Humboldt County. In addition to offering materials on her educational efforts, she noted an upcoming event on January 5, 2017 which will conflict with the regular January HRC meeting.

**Commission Communications:**

**Emails-**Twenty three emails were received during the month. Eight were received from County offices, a news media request for our agenda, one email from the Marin County Commission on Human Rights, three inter-commission items discussing a MyWord response to comment made in newspapers and in online blogs. One suggested minutes amendment to the October regular meeting minutes, and seven responses from Cities and County regarding proclamations for Human Rights Awareness Month.

**Regular Mail-**

Umpqua Bank statement received.

St Joseph Healthcare-invitation to participate in February Health Fair.

**Phone Calls-other than message-line:** None

**All other announcements and communications:** -none

**Message Line Monitoring:**

Miller reported on his calls. One was a report of a missing “trimmigrant” in Southern Humboldt which was referred to law enforcement. The other call was regarding alleged bullying on the part of Child Protective Services personnel. This matter was referred to the NAACP.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lochtie reported as of 11-28-2016 the checking account balance was \$284.37 including the remaining funds from the \$500.00 McLean Foundation is \$241.02 after reimbursing for food, drink (\$196.35) and mileage reimbursement ofr \$40.00 for 160 miles.

**Ad hoc Committee Reports:**

**Human Rights Awareness Month Report:**

In lieu of a report from the committee, which had not met, the commissioners were presented with tentative planning for the acceptance of Proclamations throughout the month of December, beginning with Richard on December 5. Richard mentioned the participation of Fortuna High wrestlers volunteering river clean-up efforts. A schedule was to be distributed to all so that everyone would know their dates for presentations.

**Bridgeville Outreach Report:** Lochtie gave a detailed report of the November 16 event. Although the attendance was low, she felt those present got to clearly state their concerns and to learn more about the HRC. Her feeling was that our presence was greatly appreciated. Some of the areas of concern were unsafe road conditions requiring greater law enforcement and quicker response times to calls, dangerous driving by some local individuals, abandoned cars, problems with transients working the pot grows but not becoming part of the community, meth labs, feral dogs endangering livestock and questions regarding the wisdom of “in-house” development of an EIR water quality being done by the planning department. Those in attendance received resource cards and information. Left-over food was donated to St. Vincent DePaul kitchen in Eureka. The next event will be in the Garberville-Redway area.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Letter to BOS on criminalization of the homeless.**

A letter to the Board of Supervisors developed as a recommendation of the Post-Palco evictions ad hoc committee was reviewed. After several recommended changes, the letter was approved unanimously and was to be sent by the Chair to the BOS.

*M/ , S/ moved we approve the letter.  
Approved Y-5, N-0, A-0*

**Presentation of options being considered by BOS on Commission structure.**

Glover outlined some of the options being considered. They included reduction of the size of the commission, discontinuing the commission, and connecting the commission to a county department like the BOS or Human Resources. Glover will present our views at the December 6 BOS meeting. We oppose any reduction in the membership and prefer being “parked” with the BOS.

**New Business:**

**Vice Chair Vacancy:**

Due to the passing of Keith Taylor, the commission, which could not get to this item in previous meetings, agreed to ask Dave Heise to conduct an election at our next meeting.

**MyWord column proposal:**

Glover presented a draft of a column which indirectly responds to some negative portrayal of the Commission in the news media. After brief discussion and a few amendments, this letter was approved. It was also suggested that the letter should be more broadly distributed to include The Mad River Union, Northcoast Journal, and Lost Coast Outpost.

**HRC Endorsements Policy:**

Due to short available time and a bare quorum in attendance, it was agreed for the Chair to work up a draft of an endorsement policy and to have that presented in January.

**Expansion of outreach to include social media:**

After brief discussion, it was suggested Heise, through his contacts at HSU, might be able to arrange for a student-intern to develop a FaceBook page for use by the Commission. It is hoped he may be able to present some preliminary ideas at the January meeting.

**January Agenda suggestions:**

A brief review of upcoming possible agenda items was read to the commission. This includes inviting Sheriff Downey and Supervisor Fennell to our January meeting.

**Adjournment:** 7:05 pm

## HRC VICE-CHAIR - DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Updated 4-7-2016

- Preside at any HRC meeting where the Chair is absent, keeping to the timeline for the meeting.
- Assume the duties of the chair, in the event the Chair is unable to perform his/her duties.
- Monitor and respond to the HRC email address and report back activity to each regular meeting.
- **Assure updates to any website publications of our resource cards are made promptly upon completion of any revisions.**
- Be a signer on the HRC checking account.

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Preface: In light of the recent measure V ballot proposal and the resulting disclosures of possible impropriety with the primary contact with the Human Rights Commission, it was proposed we should have a policy governing what measures or issues we should endorse in elections. The following is a proposal for consideration.

## Election Endorsement Policy- Adopted 01-05-2016

The Human Rights Commission will endorse candidates or ballot measures based on the following criteria:

- A formal presentation is to be made to the Human Rights Commission allowing for questioning by the commissioners before any support is given.
- In the case of a ballot measure, the commission will take no public stance until the measure's final wording is public information (not just a proposal).
- The commission will allow itself to be quoted in campaign materials only with the prior consent of the commission.
- The HRC will campaign for or against a ballot measure only once the wording of the measure has been finalized for the public.
- In the event of a revelation of facts, the HRC retains the right to reverse or withdraw its support of a candidate or ballot measure, at any time upon a vote of commissioners.
- No support of a candidate or ballot measure will be forthcoming during the meeting in which the first presentation is made.