

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

825 Fifth Street, Room 1A Eureka, California 95501

**(VIRTUAL MEETING BY ZOOM)**

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

Sept 3, 2020 5:00 pm -7:00 pm

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 pm
- II. **ROLL CALL:** 5:01 pm (3 min)  
**Scott Davies, Lelehnia DuBois, David Haynes, Carol Larsen, Byrd Lochtie, Mary Lyons, Larry Miller, Eddie Morgan, Erin Rowe**
- III. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** 5:05pm (3 min)
- IV. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:** 5:08 (1 min)
- V. **COMMISSIONER INTROS, GUESTS, or SPEAKERS:** 5:10 (5 min)
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** 5:15 pm (12 min)

*Recognition and introduction of guests and visitors. Public is invited to speak regarding matters **not** on the agenda. Comments will be limited to **three minutes**. 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.***

*Members of the public will each be allowed to speak on agenda items once during discussion, usually at the end of commissioner comments and prior to any action or vote by the commission. Time to speak will be closely monitored. (3 minutes per person)*

**Public is invited to speak regarding matters not on the agenda.** Comments received by email will be read by the Chair. If a comment is presented by ZOOM it will be limited to **three minutes**. Pursuant to Ralph M. Brown Act, Commission may not act on an item not appearing on the agenda.

**To join the meeting Pursuant to the Brown Act.**

*The commission may not act on an item that does not appear on the agenda. The public will be allowed to address agenda items in these methods:*

1. To submit comments to the Commission please email [hhr@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:hhr@co.humboldt.ca.us). or with ZOOM submissions in Chat with agenda item number included.
2. Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87555158106?pwd=VDlvS0tnS3h1S3RuQ25wRl dhNjRxQT09>  
Meeting ID: 875 5515 8106  
Password: 291550  
Dial in +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
3. You can also view the live meeting on our Facebook Page here <https://www.facebook.com/HumCoHRC/>

VII. **COMMISSIONER-COMMUNICATIONS: 5:28 pm (15 min)**

VIII. **Emails, Regular Mail, Phone Calls: (2 min)**

*Report on emails, regular mail, and phone calls received by Commission.*

IX. **All other announcements and communications: (10 min)**

*Items should be brief and/or submitted to the Secretary for inclusion in agenda.*

A. "Letter For Our Consideration"

X. **Message Line: (3 min)**

A. Current monitoring report **(DuBois)**

1. Sept 1-15 \_\_\_\_\_ Rowe \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sept 16-30 \_\_\_\_\_ Miller \_\_\_\_\_
3. Oct 1-15 \_\_\_\_\_ Larsen \_\_\_\_\_
4. Oct 16-31 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Nov 1-15 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Nov 16-30 \_\_\_\_\_

XI. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** 5:45 pm (2min) **(Lyons)**

XII. **REPORTS:** 5:50 pm (30 min)

**A. CORRECTIONAL FACILITY LIAISON**

*Volunteers to represent the HRC upon inmate requests to listen to their complaints / issues and to respond with appropriate actions or recommendations.*

*Programs Coordinator, Stefan Logie at 707-441-5137. If you are a "cleared" representative, you need no appointment to visit an inmate.*

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
**(Morgan)**

**B. HUMAN TRAFFICKING FUND-STANDING COMMITTEE**

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
**(Morgan/DuBois).**

**C. SANCTUARY ORDINANCE-STANDING COMMITTEE**

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
**(DuBois)**

**D. KINDNESS-AD HOC COMMITTEE**

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
**(Lyons)**

**E. RACISM / CULTURAL AWARENESS-AD HOC COMMITTEE**

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
**(Larson)**

**F. CITIZEN OBSERVER-AD HOC COMMITTEE**

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
**(Morgan).**

**G. DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY-AD HOC COMMITTEE**

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
**(Morgan)**

**H. HUMAN RIGHTS CANNABIS INQUIRY-AD HOC COMMITTEE**

1. Discussion / Possible Action  
(DuBois)

XIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** 6:20 pm (15 min)

- A. MSHA Letter and Commissioner Concerns.  
(DuBois)

XIV. **NEW BUSINESS:** 6:35 pm (15 min)

- A. New Secretary  
(DuBois)  
B. Listening Sessions/Commission Outreach  
(DuBois)

XV. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** 6:50 pm (2 min)

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT:**

- A. *In-person 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 accommodations to participate in a meeting, please contact the HRC at 707-268-2548. **Requests for such modification or accommodation must be made at least 72 hours before the 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 upon request.*

**112/120**

**\*\*\*\*MORE INFORMATION BELOW FOR YOU  
REVIEW\*\***

## REQUIRED READING FOR MEETING

### LETTER FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Chris Weston <chriswestonsr@yahoo.com>

Sun 8/9/2020 11:59 AM

Reply

To:

- HumanRights, Humboldt

Our nation was founded on the proposition that we all should have equal rights. The 14th Amendment to the US Constitution enshrines the principle of "Equal Protection Under the Law".

Then, why are all children required to attend school or it's educational equivalent, yet in Humboldt County there is at least one school (AJJ in Weott) planning to start the new school year with masks optional for in person classes for grades K, 1 and 2? That's in direct contradiction to the CDC recommendation that everyone age 2 or above should wear masks in public.

Everyone? Well, if you are unconscious, have trouble breathing or need help to remove a mask, then it does not apply to you. However, my 3 year old has no problem wearing a mask in stores or in removing it. That's why I think every normal 5, 6, 7 and 8 year old can and should wear a mask in school. By definition, being at a public school is being in public.

Why do K through 2 grade children, their teachers and others with family connections to the school not deserve equal protection from Covid-19? Despite some unfounded, misguided claims that children are immune, already many children have been infected and some have died from Covid-19.

Why should any school in Humboldt be permitted to allow masks to be optional, when the CDC clearly says Covid-19 is spread by "respiratory droplets", particularly inside buildings. Classes are generally held indoors, precisely the type of place where Covid-19 spreads easily.

Why does Humboldt Office of Education and Humboldt Public Health turn a blind eye to this inconsistency with CDC guidelines? My son's school administration has updated Dr Frankovich on these plans weekly, yet there has been no feedback that allowing maskless students in classes is contrary to the clear CDC recommendations. There can be no doubt that wearing masks in public is the Best Practice in containing Covid-19.

In effect, it appears that Humboldt Public Health is unconcerned for the health and well-being of K, 1 and 2 graders, their teachers, their families and others at the school. Apparently, that group of people is irrelevant to Humboldt Public Health, but I ask why? Where's the peer-reviewed data to support the claim that children are immune to Covid-19? (It doesn't exist.)

It is known that respiratory droplets can remain in the air for many hours, not just minutes. Thus, the lunchroom, gymnasium and bathrooms, etc can

become like "petri dishes" for spreading covid-19 to everyone at a school. Why is that okay? Why should covid-19 get optimum conditions to spread?

Rest assured that I have informed Humboldt Office of Education and Humboldt Public Health of the contradiction with CDC policy. Frankly, it has also been pointed out to the California Dept of Education, which falsely claims its recommendations follow the CDC. Of course, local schools follow what is recommended by Sacramento, although it violates CDC recommendations.

Since the contradiction in ignoring the CDC here was pointed out Friday, there has not yet been any direct response. Again, what organization has the resources on covid-19 like the CDC? I believe we are in an age of great change and confusion, so it is very important to listen to the knowledgeable experts. Why does Humboldt County ignore the CDC and Dr Fauci?

Please support Safety for All and especially for our children! Please join me in urging all in the Humboldt County to wear masks in public and particularly, for the Humboldt Public Health Dept and the Humboldt Dept of Education to listen to the scientists and doctors of the CDC and mandate masks for all over 2 in public. Thank you.

Regards,

Chris Weston,

Human Rights Advocate

P.O. Box 185, Phillipsville, CA 95559

Tel. 707-223-2226

**\*\*MINUTES FOR YOUR APPROVAL BELOW\*\***

## **08/2020 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

### **HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

825 Fifth Street, Room 1A Eureka, California 95501

Virtual Meeting by ZOOM

#### **DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes**

August 6, 2020-5:00pm-7:00pm

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** 5pm (Delayed until 5:25pm due to technical difficulties).

**II. ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Lelehnia DuBois, Jim Glover, David Haynie, Carol Larsen, Byrd Lochtie, Mary Lyons, Larry Miller, Eddie Morgan, Erin Rowe.

**Excused:** Steven Loreus, Scott Davies

**Unexcused:**

**III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS OR GUESTS:**

David Haynie of District Three introduced himself and expressed some of his interests that bring him to the Commission.

**IV. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

There was unanimous approval of the July 2, 2020 minutes after two minor adjustments noted by Lochtie. M/Lyons, S/Lochtie, Vote y9/ n0/ a0.

**V. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:**

There were no agenda adjustment requests.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

One public comment speaker was advised that what he wished to speak about was an agenda item and would be covered later in the meeting. He agreed to return later.

## **VII. COMMISSIONER-COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Email, none. Regular Mail, bank statement, phone, none.
- b. Lochtie reported on contact with LatinoNet and their plans to develop a town forum, in part to address community concerns about Covid-19 and its effects on communities of color and indigenous people. Although a date has not yet been set, it is expected to occur in late August or early September. She will share the invitation when it is officially available.
- c. Lochtie and Miller briefly reported on their message line activity. DuBois and Glover are handling August calls, Rowe and Miller are assigned for September, while Larsen and Glover volunteered for October. A common thread of depression or mental concerns dominated many of the calls this period. It was also noted that a number of callers may assume we see their caller I.D. not knowing we are retrieving their calls remotely. Glover offered to update the recording to emphasize the need for people to leave a clearly stated phone number so we can properly respond.

## **VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Lyons reported we have received our debit card and steps have been taken to establish an online account. A balance of \$938.08 was reported in our account as of the meeting date. In updating our banking information, Lyons moved and Lochtie seconded a motion to add the following signatures to our Umpqua account: Lelehnia DuBois, Eddie Morgan, Mary Lyons, Jim Glover. Any other signatories will be removed. Vote approved y9 /n0/ a0.

## **IX. REPORTS:**

- a. **CORRECTIONAL FACILITY LIAISON:**

Morgan reported no new activity. He went on to explain the purpose of these visits and how we are notified of a need. This was primarily for the benefit of our new commissioner.
- b. **HUMAN TRAFFICKING FUND-STANDING COMMITTEE:**

DuBois reported on recent grant recipient activities, including Arcata Playhouse, Indigenous Women's Collective, Girl Scouts, and EPI. It was suggested the resource cards should be updated to reflect some of the contact information of the EPI Resource Page. Eddie accepted the role as chair, replacing DuBois. The HAF is holding a balance of \$5,935.85 for this fund.

c. **SANCTUARY ORDINANCE-STANDING COMMITTEE:**

Glover explained the purpose of this committee and that it as well as the Human Trafficking Fund Committee are standing committees are subject to the Brown Act. Lochtie noted conversations with Centro de Pueblo and LatinoNet individuals suggests a reluctance of members to make a complaint due to statements attributed to the Sheriff and a Supervisor in a BOS meeting. This results in a lack of trust and a willingness to communicate freely. It was suggested we learn more. A motion to add Haynie to this committee was made by Rowe and seconded by Lochtie. Vote was y9/ n0/ a0. A consensus seemed to agree further outreach to the concerned groups was needed.

d. **KINDNESS-AD HOC COMMITTEE:**

DuBois offered some statistical information for this effort. Lyons will replace DuBois as chair of this committee. Motion was by Glover, seconded to make this change. Vote approval was y9/ n0/ a0.

e. **RACISM/CULTURAL AWARENESS-AD HOC COMMITTEE:**

Due to recent departures from the commission as well as new membership, this committee was reconstituted. Glover moved and Lochtie seconded, the appointment to be the new chair. Included in this move was the addition of Haynie to the committee, and adding Miller to replace DuBois. Vote was y9/ n0/ a0.

f. **CITIZEN OBSERVER-AD HOC COMMITTEE:**

Morgan reported on progress establishing this committee and that a meeting with HAF had been cancelled. Another meeting will be rescheduled soon, with the possibility of HAF grant funding to be explored. Haynie was added to the committee. Glover moved, Rowe seconded this step with the vote y9/ n0/ a0.

g. **DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY-AD HOC COMMITTEE:**

A revised mission statement for this committee was discussed along with an extension of time until December 31. These changes were on a motion by Lochtie, seconded by Glover. Vote was 9y/ n0/ a0. Also discussed were potential improvements to the HRC page on the County website to include more emphasis on how to access our teleconference meetings.

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Glover offered a reading of the proposed ByLaws amendments relating to teleconferencing of meetings. With one minor wording change, it was approved by a vote of y9/ n0/ a0.

Also approved was a motion by Lochtie, seconded by Lyons to elect Glover to replace Loreus as Secretary. Approval was 9/ n0/ a0.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

After extensive discussion regarding a commissioner's objections to the MHSA three year plan endorsement, a final vote to revisit the issue in September was adopted. It was moved by Lyons and seconded by Miller to take another look at the issue at that time. Vote was y8/ n0/ a1.

Resulting from a message line discussion with Lochtie and Miller, there was awareness raised of the importance of body cams and related police procedures. The consensus was that we need to add to our membership before we can properly address this issue.

DuBois made a presentation regarding the history of the development of Cannabis farms in Humboldt County and the more recent displacement of some individuals as a result of County policies while implementing legalization. A variety of observations were made by Commissioners and members of the public. In the end, Lyons moved with a second from Rowe, to form an ad hoc committee to inquire into what human rights impacts are resulting in Humboldt County. The committee will expire in six months (January 31, 2020), by which time it is hoped they will formulate a policy direction for the Commission to support. Vote was y7/ n0/ a2. Third member of this committee is Lyons.

## **XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Suggested or pending agenda items for the September 3 meeting include:  
Proposed listening sessions and encouraging and inviting someone from the Equity Alliance to share racial bias information with the Commission.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

8:06 pm

### **Submitted by:**

Jim Glover, Secretary