

## April 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes for Human Rights Commission

I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:32 p.m. Chair Glover read the Wiyot land acknowledgment statement. "As we gather today, we acknowledge that Eureka, California is the ancestral territory of the Wiyot people. We also honor all Indigenous people, territories, and Sovereign governments that share governance within Humboldt County, California. We gather with respect and gratitude to these Indigenous People. We thank and honor the Indigenous Caretakers of this land who continue to cherish and protect it. Their elders have instructed the young to consider the seven generations ahead as they continue to protect the rights of the land and all people who live on it. We encourage all to align and follow the lead of local Indigenous communities as they steward the land and protect all of its natural resources."

### II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Eight (8) members present for a quorum.

#### DISTRICT 1

Jim Glover (Chair)  
Carol Larsen-excused  
Byrd Lochtie

#### DISTRICT 2

Larry Miller  
Datsoli Perkins-excused  
Nazanin Szanto

#### DISTRICT 3

Guy Aronoff (Treasurer)  
Ellen Murphy (temporary secretary)  
Jamie Jenson -absent

#### DISTRICT 4

Erin Degenstein

#### DISTRICT 5

Lisa Sundberg-Zoom attendance  
Kimberly Wiley-excused  
Alissa Norman

Guests Chief Todd Jarvis of EPD and Chief Brian Ahearn of APD to discuss police department happenings.

III. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: The April 6, 2023, agenda was presented and accepted.

IV. OPENING NOTES: Chair Glover read the function of the Human Rights Commission as a reminder of the commission's obligation.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: March 2, 2023, Regular Minutes were accepted as amended.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Aronoff reported the balance remains at \$488.00, including recent transactions.

VII. GUEST SPEAKER:

Chief Brian Ahearn of Actata and Chief Todd Jarvis of EPD

Chief Ahearn and Jarvis discussed the state of their respective departments, speaking on the state of policing.

Highlighting the following:

Ahearn

- the recent increase in hate crimes
- City police active involvement with the growing student body at Cal Poly Humboldt
- low staffing rate and steps for recruitment
- acknowledged the need for specialty offices, including traffic enforcement
- Recognition of efforts and participation in the training of the offices in the department
- capital improvements, specifically updated radios

Commissioner Alissa Norman asked about police interacting with people with disabilities. Chief Ahearn spoke about specific training in this regard.

Commissioner Lisa Sundberg asked about training for wellness checks and suicidality. She also asked about efforts at mitigating Fentanyl use and sale. Chief Ahearn stressed the importance of community communication and partnership and said these efforts needed statewide legislative solutions.

Commissioners thanked Chief Ahearn for the shared information and informed them. Chair Glover thanked the presenters, who then left the in-person meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Jarvis

- DEI (Diversity, equity, and inclusion) training
- Some staffing issues, understaffed
- Leadership classes about tolerance and identifying biases
- alternative responses (CARE program)
- warming center creation in resonance to deaths due to exposure
- Independent police auditor

-Hats with reflectors distributed to the houseless population to mitigate traffic accidents

Chair Glover asked about the IPA (Independent Police Auditor) program and how the police were involved. Chief Jarvis said that it had been a scheduling issue. Chair Glover suggested that hearing from people beyond city employees would be beneficial.

Commissioner Miller asked for clarification on staffing shortages at the Arcata and Eureka departments. Chief Jarvis reported efforts at recruiting and upcoming hires.

Commissioner Norman asked about CIT training on better responding to people experiencing a mental health crisis and praised this training for its progressive attitude.

Commissioner Aronoff asked about who was the independent police auditor, the relationship between Eureka and Arcata departments, and OES relationship. Chief Jarvis answered his questions, noting a good working relationship with all agencies and stressing that this was necessary given the rurality of our community.

#### VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Glover read the statement from 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 a solution, 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 purposed 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 a 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 Comment: Ashe? shared his concern about "opinions taken as facts," specifically in regard to various opinions held by those in the community of Ferndale and LGTB issues.

#### IX. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

##### a) Emails, Regular Mail:

Chair Glover reported there were no new emails received.

b) All other announcements and communications: No announcements or communications were reported from others commissioners.

c) Message Line Report:

Commissioner Lyons did not report any calls from the message line.

Commissioner Murphy reported several calls from both the women's and men's side of the county jail. Many of these were not asking for help with a human rights issue; callers were asking for help with personal legal issues. One repeat caller needed behavioral health assessment and treatment. Calles to the men's side were followed up as necessary. One caller wanted to discuss a tenant's rights, but when called back, this was a past issue that had largely been resolved.

Future Scheduling of Message Line

April 1-15–Jim Glover

April 16-30–Kim Wiley

May 1-15–Byrd Lochtie

May 16-31-Larry Miller

June 1-15-Guy Aronoff

June 16-30-Ellen Murphy

X. CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES LIAISON REPORT:

Commissioner Miller reported that he had spoken with the male callers from the jail.

It was also noted that Commissioner Lyons had resigned from her post with the Human Rights Commission. Preliminary discussions were had to manage this vacant position.

XI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SANCTUARY ORDINANCE (Aronoff, Morgan, Glover)

The committee did not meet, no news to report.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FUND (Glover, Lochtie, Morgan, Sundberg)

The committee did not meet, no news to report.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CULTURAL AWARENESS - End date: 12-31-2023 (Larsen, Lochtie, Miller)

The committee did not meet, no news to report.

HOMELESSNESS / BEHAVIOR HEALTH (Aronoff, Glover, Larsen) end date 6-30-2023

The committee did not meet, no news to report.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMITTEE-End date 12-31-2023 (Sundberg, Aronoff, Larsen, Miller) The committee did not meet, no news to report.

JUNIOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - End date 12-31-23

Purpose: To explore and possibly establish high school-level participation in the subject of human rights throughout the county. Current Issue: Exploring the options and mechanics of such a project.

Committee Members: (Jensen, Lochtie, Lyons, Murphy) Discussion / Possible Action  
The committee did not meet, no news to report.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 7

No unfinished business at this time was presented.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

No new business at this time was presented.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Proposed agenda items for May 4, 2023

- Commissioner Szanto requested that all commissions come to the next meeting with a project/outreach idea to help increase awareness of the human rights commission and to increase community involvement.  
Further discussion was had as to the ebb and flow of the commission itself.
- Further discussion should also be had regarding portal media, including increasing the budget.

MOTION 7 Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., Seconded by Commissioner Lochtie. The vote was unanimous.