

**Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force**  
*February 4, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes*

**I. Roll Call: 6:45 pm**

Present: Dagley, Garrick, Knowles, Malik, Tyler, MacDonell, Dahman, Johnson  
Absent: Lee-Goodman  
Staff Liaison: Kuhnke  
Police Liaison: Sgt. Winks

**II. Welcoming Remarks by Chair Dagley**

Chair Dagley welcomed all present.

**III. Public Comments:**

Former Mayor Ralph Bauer distributed a handout entitled "Some Thoughts on Homelessness in Huntington Beach" that had been presented to the City Council. Three major areas were presented in this: the need to establish how many homeless are in HB; what resources are currently available to serve their needs and establishing a protocol to deal with homeless people and their issues. The discussion is being galvanized by the death of Kelly Thomas in Anaheim.

**IV. Special Reports/Presentations:**

Huntington Beach's new Police Chief Handy was introduced. He received his undergraduate degree from U of Arizona in 1990 and worked for the Phoenix Police Department from then until 2011, when he moved to San Bernardino PD. He has served in many capacities and with differing populations in his career including gangs and neo-nazi groups. He received his graduate degree from ASU and subsequently taught in their police academy for years.

Chief Handy was previously familiar with HB and is very excited to be living and working here. He has an interest in diversity issues and has worked with the Anti-Defamation League and traveled to Israel with other police chiefs. He discussed the current police considerations for dealing with the homeless: interview each individual when there is a problem; work with the PET team to find placement and treatment when appropriate; encourage one-on-one contact between police officers and homeless individuals on a regular basis in the community. All officers will be attending a new 2-day training to help them become more proficient in dealing with this population.

By this summer, the number of police officers should be at capacity, after a period of a shortage in numbers. There will be 3 full time gang officers. Johnson thanked Chief Handy for increased vigilance in DUI arrests and dealing with under-age drinking. The HBPD is gearing up for the summer and the influx of visitors to the city. They will be implementing more community based policing. They will also be enforcing new requirements on establishments renewing their liquor license such as the business must have cameras in particular locations to help keep track of activities and problems.

**V. Approve Minutes:**

***Motion to approve January 7, 2013 minutes as presented. Moved, Knowles; Seconded, MacDonell  
Yes:8 No: 0; Absent:1 (Lee-Goodman) Motion Approved.***

**VI. Status Reports:**

1. Hate Crimes/Incidents:

Sgt. Winks had no new hate crimes to report from January. He reported that there was only one hate crime in all of 2013 in HB. He also reported that there are no longer school district paid police officers in the local high schools. He feels that the city should replace them, since the local police cannot handle the sometimes sensitive issues that the former officers handled so well in the schools.

2. Coordinating Council (CC) News/Activities:

MacDonell attended the CC monthly meeting. The Orange County Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts made presentations which stressed how these organizations develop leadership skills in our youth. The Council on Aging is still partnering with NAMI.

3. OC Human Relations News/Activities:

Malik reported that OCHR is working on their Youth Speech contest and getting ready for their annual awards banquet on May 8<sup>th</sup> recognizing community leaders. Their annual report is now available on line.

4. HB Reads 2013 News/Activities:

Dagley reported on the HB Reads event: the panel at Barnes and Noble. Event was well attended and enjoyable, with four participants, including task force member Tyler and her husband, Charles. He asked if anyone has contact with Boeing employees to help with fund raising. Johnson offered to reach out to Edison's Community Involvement program with their employees for possible funding assistance.

5. HRTF Donation Account Balance:

Kuhnke reported the balance at \$2,651.87.

**VII. Updates, Planning, and Possible Motions pertaining to the following events/programs:**

1. Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee: No new report.

2. Report form Ad Hoc Museum of Tolerance Trip Committee:

Garrick reported that the two schools with definite plans to attend are Valley Vista and Westminster High Schools. Westminster High School did receive the Target grant of \$700 so their trip is funded. They will go on either Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> or Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>. Crystal Jerabek and Brian Sira are the Westminster staff members managing the trip.

Valley Vista High School will send 20 to 25 students in either March or April. They will need funding from HRTF to pay for the bus, substitute teachers and other expenses. Meghan O'Connor is managing the trip for the school. The MOT is providing entrance tickets for both schools.

3. HRTF Student Representative Programs

Garrick reported that, once again, there was a great deal of enthusiasm among the student reps. They definitely want to be involved with volunteering at the Community Service day on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Other areas that they are interested in are: a possible picnic at Central Park with activities; a volunteer expo under the umbrella of the City of Compassion and the Day of Dialogue on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Their next meeting is Wed. February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at HBHS.

4. Report from Charter on Compassion Committee

Garrick reported on behalf of Lee-Goodman that she is requesting input from the HRTF members on how we can address the needs being considered by the Committee.

**VIII. New Business and Possible motions pertaining to:**

1. Follow-up research and possible program to identify school response to new anti-bullying laws

MacDonell reported on the recently published bullying report in the HB school districts. The number of offenses resulting in suspension were: HB Union HS: (2011-2012) 33; (2012-2013) 1; HB City: (2011-2012) 3; (2012-2013) 1; Fountain Valley: (2011-2012) 0; (2012-2013) 7; Ocean View: (2011-2012) 19; (2011-2012) 16; Westminster: (2011-2012) 17; (2012-2013) 5. The large discrepancy shown in the HB Union HS can be explained partially by the fact that different criteria were used each year. MacDonell will bring a follow-up report to the next meeting.

2. Follow up on program to purchase diversity books for school libraries

Tyler presented a book list for possible consideration for purchase for children in grades K-5. Discussion on possible funding of the program will be continued to the next meeting in order to provide additional time for Tyler to speak with the school librarians to determine how the books will be used.

3. Follow up discussion and consideration of possible film programs for students

Dagley suggested that this be done at some time with students on school campuses.

4. Appoint a nominating committee to solicit nominations for Chair, Vice chair and Secretary

Johnson, Malik and Dahman agreed to serve on the committee and report back to HRTF next month on the slate of candidates. Johnson agreed to chair the nominating committee.

**IX. Task Force Member Comments:**

Kuhnke reported that Mayor Harper announced African American History month at the February 3, 2014 City Council meeting.

**Adjournment at 8:45 pm to: March 4, 2014 , Huntington Central Library, B Room at 6:45 p.**