

Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force

October 6, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call: 6:45 pm

Present: MacDonell, Dahman, Tyler, Johnson, Malik, Monfort, McKinnon

Absent: Garrick, Lee Goodman

Staff Liaison: Kuhnke

Police Liaison: Sgt. Winks

II. Welcoming Remarks by Chair MacDonell

Chair MacDonell welcomed all present. She introduced the new members of the task force, Lindsley Lowell Monfort and Lenore McKinnon and read pertinent information about them from their applications to the city.

III. Public Comments:

Deborah Reisdorph, Executive Director of Bullying Awareness Resistance Education, Inc. suggested that the recent publicized bullying incident at one of the schools would be a good place for the HRTF to become directly involved. MacDonell said that the task force would consider this suggestion.

IV. Special Reports/Presentations:

Captain Russ Reinhart attended the meeting in place of Police Chief Handy. Several areas of police work were presented. All police officers in HB are part of the community policing program; all are encouraged to participate in community events. The use of body wear cameras has, for the past 3 years, been tested by 16 officers as they work in the field. Different cameras are being tried with the expectation of full implementation by the summer. It has already been proven that a 50% drop in aggressive behavior occurs when they are used. Officers are also given ongoing training in de-escalating situations. In the past two years, there have been 20 new hires in the department.

V. Approve Minutes: August 4, 2015 minutes. Moved: Johnson; Seconded: Tyler Yes: (7) No: (0); Absent 2 (Lee-Goodman, Garrick. Motion carried.

VI. Status Reports:

1. Hate Crimes/Incidents:

Sgt. Winks reported no new hate crimes in September. He reported that two months ago, a gay couple was harassed with negative flyers and damage was done to one of their cars. The victims have not pursued this and have not returned inquiries from the PD.

2. Coordinating Council News/Activities

Tyler reported that Stephanie Vasquez from the Cert Emergency Response Team spoke about the various disaster preparedness programs sponsored by the city.

3. OC Human Relations News/Activities

Malik reported that the annual Walk in my Shoes event will be held on November 13, 2015 at 8:30 am at Cal State Fullerton. Approximately 500 students are already signed up for the day. Task Force members are invited to attend and should contact Malik if they are interested in attending.

4. HRTF Donation Account Balance:

Kuhnke reported the balance at \$1,814.12.

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

1. Executive Director Deborah Reisdorph Report

Deborah Reisdorph, Executive Director, Bullying Awareness Resistance Education, Inc., distributed hand-outs regarding National Bullying Prevention Month and reported that the "Be a Friend" anti-bullying banner is on display at Main and Walnut and in two weeks will be at the pier. She also suggested that the task force may be interested in sponsoring an activity such as a middle school dance at a location to highlight Bullying Prevention Month or the development of a written, city-wide pledge that all organizations could adopt.

2. Student Representative Programs

Dahman reported that a small group of student representatives met on September 16th at the library and agreed to focus on one issue this year. Two suggestions were to have an assembly at each school focusing on anti bullying or to have a dance-a-thon to highlight diversity issues. The next meeting will be on Oct. 21st at the library and they will try to increase attendance at the meetings.

VIII. New Business and Possible motions pertaining to:

1. Update of HRTF Member Year End term expirations

Kuhnke reported that the terms of Malik, Johnson, MacDonell, Dahman, and Monfort are expiring at the end of this year. All need to send a letter to the City Council liaisons through Kuhnke affirming that they wish to be reappointed to the HRTF by the end of this month. Kuhnke also reminded members of the ethics training to be held on October 15th at City Hall.

2. Diversity program for local elementary schools

Tyler reported that she has contacted the elementary schools in the Ocean View School District and found that five of the schools are in dire need of books that reflect different ethnicities and cultures. She reported that Jeanne Ferrara from Barnes and Noble could provide a 20% discount on any books that we purchased. Monfort shared that she has contacts in the publishing world and would assist Tyler in contacting the various authors of books that we have identified and ask if they would donate books for this project. She and Tyler agreed to work together on this.

3. Discussion of HRTF visioning Exercise goals and objectives

The discussion will be held at the November meeting. Johnson and MacDonell will facilitate the discussion. Other reports will be brief to accommodate time for this discussion. MacDonell also requested that the Chair of HBReads be invited to the next meeting.

IX. Task Force Member Comments:

Johnson suggested that we consider discussing the language being used about the international immigrant/refugee crisis.

Sgt. Winks commented that there are two school resource officers - one for the northern section of the city and one for the southern section. While more officers are needed, hopefully, they can deal with bullying issues before they reach the crime level.

Adjournment at 8:00 pm to November 3, 2015 Huntington Central Library, B Room at 6:45 p.