

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

[www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov)

## MEETING AGENDA

**LOCATION: PALM SPRINGS POLICE TRAINING CENTER – Room B**  
200 South Civic Drive – Adjacent to the Police Department

Saturday,  
September 12, 2015



9:00 a.m.

### COMMISSIONERS

**Dee Dee Wilson Barton, Chair**  
**Jack Newby, Vice Chair**  
**Eduardo Carriazo**  
**Jilska Chandrasena**  
**Denise Chappell**

**Janel Hunt**  
**Wes Rankins**  
**Suzanne Severin**  
**Deborah Sutton-Weiss**

### Student Representatives

**Angelina Pinkney, Palm Springs High School**  
**Kelli Martin, Raymond Cree Middle School**

### Staff Liaison:

Lee Bonno  
Director of Neighborhood & Community Relations

*City of Palm Springs Vision Statement: Palm Springs aspires to be a unique world-class desert community, where residents and visitors enjoy our high quality of life and a relaxing experience. We desire to balance our cultural and historical resources with responsible, sustainable economic growth and enhance our natural desert beauty. We are committed to providing responsive, friendly, and efficient customer service in an environment that fosters unity among all our citizens.*

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5 the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, (760) 323-8255, TDD (760) 864-9527, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

(Please **TURN-OFF** all cell phone ringers during this meeting - thank you!)

1. CALL TO ORDER:
2. FLAG SALUTE:
3. MISSION STATEMENT: "The Mission of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission is to promote and protect the diversity of our community and to improve human relations through education and community awareness."

4. ROLL CALL:
5. POSTING OF THE AGENDA: This Agenda was available for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board (west side of Council Chamber), the City Clerk's office, and Planning Services counter on or before 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 8, 2015. A courtesy web site posting of the Agenda may be found at the City's website [www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov). Pursuant to the Government Code Section 54957.5, the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the public meeting of the Human Rights Commission is the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, at 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Three (3) minutes per speaker
7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 13, 2015 MEETING
8. HRC BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2015/2016 – Retreat session to be facilitated by Chair Dee Dee Wilson Barton
  - 8.A Introduction – Commissioners to highlight two to three areas of interests about themselves, no more than 2 to 3 minutes per Commissioner
  - 8.B Quick round table – Commissioners to name two skills and two passions as related to the Commission
  - 8.C Overview of 2014-2015 – Vice Chair Newby
  - 8.D Job descriptions and expectations for Commissioners
  - 8.E Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget
  - 8.F Select human rights areas of focus for 2015/2016
  - 8.G Discuss Community Center Inclusion/Community Outreach
    - James O. Jesse Desert Highland Unity Center
    - Mizell Senior Center
    - LGBT Center
    - Libraries
    - City Council
    - Board of Education
  - 8.H Map out calendar of selected human rights areas of focus for 2015/2016 and make assignments
  - 8.I Commissioners' personal goals for the year related to the Commission
9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / AND OR VOTE:
  - 9.A Chair's appointment of a Commissioner to the Palm Springs Homelessness Committee
  - 9.B Participation in Palm Springs Pride, 10, a.m., Sunday. Nov. 8, 2015
  - 9.C Participation in the Veterans Day Parade, 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015
  - 9.D Participation in the Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, Nov. 20, 2015 in Ruth Hardy Park
  - 9.E Upcoming request for an endorsement of a short film about a transgender woman, her self-acceptance and life in Palm Springs
  - 9.F Continued report on the State and CDC prevention options regarding primary HIV prevention education funding
  - 9.G Redesign the Commission's logo

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE OCT. 12, 2015 HRC MEETING:

11. ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures:

1. Minutes from the July 13, 2015 HRC meeting

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETINGS at 3:00 p.m. THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM IN CITY HALL, 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
of the  
City of Palm Springs

Minutes from July 13, 2015 Meeting

<u>COMMISSIONERS</u>	<u>Present at this Meeting</u>	<u>Present FY Year-to-Date</u>	<u>FY 2015-16 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 201-16 Unexcused Absences</u>
Dee Dee Wilson Barton	X	1	0	0
Eduardo Carriazo	X	1	0	0
Jilska Chandrasena	0	0	1	0
Denise Chappell	X	1	0	0
Janel Hunt	X	1	0	0
Jack Newby	X	1	0	0
Wes Rankins	X	1	0	0
Suzanne Severin	X	1	0	0
Deborah Sutton-Weiss	X	1	0	0

The above roll call record is based on all meeting Minutes from July 13, 2015 thru July 13, 2015

1. Chair Wilson Barton called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.
2. Commissioner Carriazo led the flag salute.
3. Commissioner Sutton-Weiss recited the Mission Statement.
4. Commissioners Present: Carriazo, Chappell, Hunt, Newby, Rankins, Sutton-Weiss, Severin and Wilson Barton.  
Commissioners Absent: Chandrasena was excused.
5. POSTING OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act on or before 4 p.m., on July 9, 2015.  
  
With two new members, the Commissioners did brief self-introductions, providing some background.
6. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
7. GUEST SPEAKER: David H, Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager, opened a dialogue with the Commissioners about how the City can interact/assist the Human Rights Commission and how the Commission can interact/assist the City. He indicated that he is happy to facilitate and find resources for Human Rights Commission projects. Chair Wilson Barton noted the difficulty that the City and its commissions have in recruiting under-represented demographics. Vice Chair Newby added that the time of day that many committee and commission meetings are held may be problematic for working people and recommended a review of outreach efforts to see if they are effectively reaching the different segments of the community. Commissioner Rankins said that the City's Human Resources Department should be the primary mover in recruitment. Commissioners Rankins and Sutton-Weiss said that the HRC's September planning meeting would provide time to discuss and identify its key areas of focus for the coming year and Commissioner Sutton-Weiss said she hopes there will be an opportunity to meet with Dr. Ready after that meeting. Commissioner Severin said the HRC wants to partner and be more involved in community issues -- building collaborations with the City Council and other boards/commissions. Dr. Ready recommended using the HRC's Website presence as a promotional tool. Chair Wilson Barton noted the six or seven human rights issues the Commission selected to focus on in a year, inviting people

to educate not only the Commission, but the community on those issues. She said this year the Commission's goal was to move from just education and include advocacy and action. Commissioner Hunt expressed her concern that there are many communities within Palm Springs that don't feel they have a say or that their issues are being addressed. She added that those walls have to come down. Vice Chair Newby suggested having a representative from the HRC take part in the newly formed Task Force on the Homeless. Dr. Ready acknowledged that issues raised by the Commissioners are complex and noted the difficulty in recruiting personnel to come to the desert. He described "constraints" and "binding constraints" – overcoming constraints involves problem solving and ingenuity while overcoming binding constraints is more difficult, sometimes requiring resources beyond the City's actual capacity as well as the need to coordinate a variety of outside agencies/resources. Commissioner Rankins recommends that the HRC develop some specific projects/plans and proposed budgets to present to the City. Commissioner Severin described to the City Manager the expanded mediation program that is in development. Chair Wilson Barton asked Dr. Ready to keep the HRC on his radar when developing City Council agendas. Dr. Ready was in favor of having the HRC come away from its planning meeting with some specific issues it would like to address in 2015-2016. He said that he would work with the HRC and the City to find resources to accomplish those projects.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 8, 2015 MEETING: Following a motion from Vice Chair Newby and seconded by Commissioner Hunt, the minutes from the June 8, 2015 HRC meeting were approved 8-0 (Commissioner Chandrasena was absent).

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/AND OR VOTE:

9.A Election of a Chair and Vice Chair:

- Vice Chair Newby nominated Chair Wilson Barton for another term as Chair with a second from Commissioner Carriazo. Commissioner Rankins asked that in accepting the nomination Chair Wilson Barton speak about her desire to be re-elected. Chair Wilson Barton cited her skills as an organizer and facilitator as well as her willingness to entertain new ideas. She also expressed her strong belief and enthusiasm in the HRC mission. The motion/nomination was approved 8-0 (Commissioner Chandrasena was absent).
- Chair Wilson Barton nominated Vice Chair Newby to sever as Vice Chair with a second from Commissioner Sutton-Weiss. In accepting the nomination Vice Chair Newby stated that a primary goal of his second term would be to facilitate the participation of more people, bringing more people into the process. The motion/nomination was approved 8-0 (Commissioner Chandrasena was absent).

9.B Proposal to rename Crossley Road/Golf Club Drive to Lawrence Crossley Road: Chair Wilson Barton read an email from Trae Daniel, Chair of the Lawrence Crossley Neighborhood Organization, describing the importance of Mr. Lawrence Crossley to the African American, Indian and Latino communities. Mr. Daniel is asking the support of the HRC in the renaming of Crossley Road/Golf Club Drive to Lawrence Crossley Road in recognition of Mr. Crossley's many contributions to the City between the early 1920s and continuing until his death in the mid 1960s. Commissioner Hunt indicated that she attended the Planning Commission meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> to offer public comment and her personal support of the proposal to rename Crossley Road as her family was directly affected by the relocation of so many African American families from Section 14. Commissioners Rankins and Severin also highlighted some of the other contributions of Mr. Crossley. Commissioner Sutton-Weiss moved that the Commission write a letter in support (of renaming Crossley Road/Golf Club Drive to Lawrence Crossley Road). Commissioner Hunt will draft the letter. Following a seconded by Commissioner Rankins, the motion was approved 8-0 (Commissioner Chandrasena was absent). Commissioner Severin said she would represent the Commission at the Planning Commission meeting when they Commission addresses the proposed name change.

9.C Co-sponsor the screening of the documentary, "Uniquely Nasty: The U.S. Government's War on Gays": Chair Wilson Barton indicated that the HRC had received a request to co-sponsor a screening of "Uniquely Nasty," (a 30 minute documentary film) on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015. Yahoo News released the film to coincide with the recent US Supreme Court ruling on Marriage Equality. The film explores the persecution of gays during J. Edgar Hoover's term as head of the FBI. The film's screening will be followed by a panel discussion. The request also included an invitation for a member of the HRC to sit on the panel. Yahoo News is paying the costs of the screening. The screening will take place at the CVRep Theatre

in Rancho Mirage. One screening will be at 6 p.m. and another at 8 p.m. One of the screenings will be private. Vice Chair Newby asked, and Chair Wilson Barton confirmed that the LGBT Center was involved in this event. Chair Wilson Barton entertained a motion to approve co-sponsoring the event and having an HRC member be a panelist. Commissioner Rankins made the motion that was seconded by Vice Chair Newby. The motion was approved 8-0 (Commissioner Chandrasena was absent). Vice Chair Newby will represent the HRC as a member of the panel.

9.D Report on the State and CDC prevention options regarding primary HIV prevention education funding: Vice Chair Newby recapped the HRC's discussion from the June 8 meeting during which he proposed writing a letter from the HRC to the City Council asking them to support more primary HIV prevention funding. Vice Chair Newby described the considerable research he conducted on the CDC Plan and the California Plan for reducing the HIV infection rate. Vice Chair Newby recommends that the HRC might work with The Desert AIDS Project to conduct some further investigations and perhaps form a working relationship with DAP to assist in their efforts to reduce new infections. The Chair determined that this topic be explored further at the September planning meeting.

9.E Commission's planning meeting, currently scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Room B, Police Training Center and authorize the expenditure of funds for refreshments: Chair Wilson Barton reiterated the details and outlined the agenda. Her goal is to create a calendar of topics for the entire 2015-2016 fiscal year. The Chair entertained a motion for the expenditure of \$150 for refreshments. The motion was made by Vice Chair Newby and seconded by Commissioner Sutton-Weiss. The motion was approved 8-0 (Commissioner Chandrasena was absent). The Chair requested that Commissioner Rankins make arrangements for the refreshments.

9.F Update on support and participation in the Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil on Nov. 20, 2015 in Ruth Hardy Park: Commissioner Severin followed-up with Thomi Clinton to find out what kind of support her group needs for the event. There is a request that the HRC have a booth at the event. For the benefit of the new Commissioners, Chair Wilson Barton described the HRC's decision to no longer staff booths at most events – rather the HRC will participate in specific parades. Commissioner Severin indicated that she and Commissioner Sutton-Weiss will work with Ms. Clinton to come up with a way for the HRC to have a presence at the event. This item will remain on the agendas for September and October.

9.G Chair's appointment of a second Commissioner to the Palm Springs Police Department LGBT Outreach Committee: Commissioner Sutton-Weiss volunteered to fill the vacancy created by former Commissioner David Brown. Chair Wilson Barton appointed Commissioner Sutton-Weiss. She will serve along with Commissioner Rankins.

9.H Discuss having a presentation on gender-neutral bathrooms at the Oct. 12, 2015 meeting: Commissioners Hunt and Sutton-Weiss indicated that this program is moving forward toward the date scheduled. Lee Bonno noted an August 12 seminar by Thomi Clinton at Roy's Desert Resource Center about transgender related topics and indicated that members of the HRC were welcome to attend. Ms Bonno will forward details of the presentation to the Commissioners via email so they can put it on their calendars.

9.I Diversity Training/Cultural Proficiency and the status of Cultural Diversity/Cultural Humility, Anti-Bias Training in the City of Palm Springs: Vice Chair Newby noted that he, Commissioner Severin and Perry Madison, Director of Human Resources for the City, met on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Madison indicated that the city-wide training has opened up a dialogue among City employees and that he is moving forward with some additional, more focused, trainings. Commissioner Severin added that they let Mr. Madison know about the September HRC planning meeting and that the HRC was very interested in partnering with the City if there was a topic they could help with on a training level. Commissioner Severin left a proposal from the National Conflict Resolution Center on "inclusive communication" with Mr. Madison for his review and indicated that she would follow up with him.

9.J Mediation Services Update: Commissioner Severin is working with Lee Bonno to set up a meeting with City officials to describe the mediation services program. She has drafted a press release, but it will not be sent until there is a definite date for roll out of this program.

9.K Report from the Desert Highland Gateway Estates Community Action Association meeting of June 9, 2015: Chair Wilson Barton noted that she attended this meeting with Commissioner Rankins and Commissioner Severin. She added that all HRC Commissioners are welcome to attend this community's monthly meeting – held on the second Tuesday of the month (next meeting will be September 8) at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center at 7:00 p.m. Chair Wilson Barton stated that it was a very interesting meeting in that she was able to hear underserved individuals in that community address the problems their neighborhood experiences with resources, transportation and crime. Commissioner Hunt said these are issues the Commission needs to address with the City Manager. Chair Wilson Barton asked her for three topics the HRC should look to partner with the Desert Highland Gateway Estates Community to address. Commissioner Hunt listed inclusion, awareness and some of the barriers some people feel regarding police or discrimination. Commissioner Rankins indicated that he felt the meeting was productive and fulfills a goal of going outside the community. Although, he said he heard issues at the meeting that the Commission cannot resolve. However, Chair Wilson Barton said the Commission can be a voice to the City Council.

10. STUDENT COMMENTS: None – The Chair noted the two new student representatives – one from Raymond Cree Middle School and one from Palm Springs High School -- are expected to attend the Sept. 12 planning meeting.
11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Vice Chair Newby noted that he attended the Trans Pride Picnic in Ruth Hardy Park on June 28<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he had a very good conversation with Thomi Clinton and there was good attendance, including several members of the City Council. Commissioner Rankins noted that he marched with the City of Palm Springs recruitment contingent in the Los Angeles Gay Pride Parade.
12. STAFF COMMENTS: Lee Bonno noted that 2015-2016 meeting calendars and HRC roster were distributed. She indicated that she was in receipt of the City and County of San Francisco's report on "The Human Rights Impact Of The War On Drugs" and will make it available to Commissioners who would like it. Ms. Bonno noted that she had received an inquiry about the HRC's logo design and asked if the HRC would like to review the current logo for revision or change. It was determined that this item should be on the agenda for the September meeting.
13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SEPT. 12, 2015 HRC PLANNING MEETING: These were discussed earlier in the meeting.
14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. until 9:00 a.m., Saturday, September, 12, 2015 in Room B at the Police Training Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Towne  
Volunteer  
Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations

For

Lee A. Bonno  
Staff Human Rights Commission Liaison  
Director of Neighborhood & Community Relations