

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

www.palmspringsca.gov

MEETING AGENDA

**LOCATION: PALM SPRINGS CITY HALL – Large Conference Room
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way**

Monday,
Oct. 12, 2015



3:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS

Dee Dee Wilson Barton, Chair
Jack Newby, Vice Chair
Eduardo Carriazo
Jilaska 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 4:30 p.m., Thursday, October 8, 2015. A courtesy web site posting of the Agenda may be found at the City's web site www.palmsprings-ca.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. GUEST SPEAKERS:
 - Thomi Clinton, President and Founder of Transgender Community Coalition and TDOR Palm Springs, will speak about the legal obligations and requirements to provide successful integration of transgender people into our community.
 - Jane Mills, Director of Student Services for the Palm Springs Unified School District will speak about understanding the law of transgender topics in the school system.
8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2015 MEETING
9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / AND OR VOTE:
 - 9.A Participation in Palm Springs Pride Parade, 10, a.m., Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015 – Commissioner Hunt
 - 9.B Participation in the Veterans Day Parade, 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015 – Commissioners Severin and Hunt
 - 9.C Participation in the Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, Nov. 20, 2015 in Ruth Hardy Park – Commissioner Sutton-Weiss
 - 9.D Community Service Awards to be presented Feb. 8, 2016
 - 9.E Community Outreach Update:
 - Mizell – Vice Chair Newby and Commissioner Chandrasena
 - Desert Highland – Chair Wilson Barton and Commissioner Hunt
 - LGBT Center – Vice Chair Newby and Commissioners Rankins and Chappell
 - Libraries – Commissioners Severin and Chandrasena
 - Board of Education – Commissioners Sutton-Weiss and Chandrasena, Chair Wilson Barton
 - ONE-PS – Vice Chair Newby
 - Palm Springs Art Museum – Commissioner Severin
 - Desert AIDS Project – Vice Chair Newby and Commissioner Chappell
 - 9.F Task Force Reports:
 - Homelessness Committee – Commissioner Severin
 - CDBG – Chair Wilson Barton
 - Mizell
 - Logo Committee – Commissioners Rankins, Severin, Carriazo
 - 9.G Public comment at the City Council meeting
 - 9.H Commission's tentative calendar:

NOVEMBER 2015: Homelessness
Guest Speaker(s): Martha's Village and Well in the Desert
Coordinated by: Commissioners Chappell and Rankins
with input from Commissioner Severin

- DECEMBER 2015: Affordable/Fair Housing
Guest Speaker(s): Dale Cook and others
Coordinated by: Commissioner Rankins
- JANUARY 2016: Review/Re-strategize HRC Outreach Efforts
Annual Report
Coordinated by: Chair Wilson Barton
- FEBRUARY 2016: Community Service Awards
- MARCH 2016: Race Relations
Guest Speaker(s): Desert Sun Race Relations Survey Group
Coordinated by: Commissioner Carriazo
- APRIL 2016: Equal Access in Education/Government
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Commissioner Hunt and Vice Chair Newby
- MAY 2016: Women's Issues/Child Hunger
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Chair Wilson Barton and Student Rep.
Angelina Pinkney
Commissioner Hunt to address Child Hunger
- A veterans offsite event at the American Legion
Coordinated by: Commissioner Severin
- JUNE 2016: LGBT Issues
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Commissioner Sutton-Weiss
- JULY 2016: Ableism
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Commissioner Chandrasena

9.I Commission's budget

9.J Update on complaint of discrimination: Commissioner Severin

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NOV. 9, 2015 HRC MEETING:

11. ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures:

1. Minutes from the Sept. 12, 2015 HRC meeting plus attachments
2. Past Community Service Award recipients

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 Sept. 12, 2015 Planning Retreat 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 2015-16 Unexcused Absences</u>
Dee Dee Wilson Barton	X	2	0	0
Eduardo Carriazo	X	2	0	0
Jilka Chandrasena	X	1	1	0
Denise Chappell	X	2	0	0
Janel Hunt	X	2	0	0
Jack Newby	X	2	0	0
Wes Rankins	X	2	0	0
Suzanne Severin	X	2	0	0
Deborah Sutton-Weiss	X	2	0	0
Angelina Pinkney, Student Rep	X	1	0	0
Kelli Martin, Student rep.	0	0		

The above roll call record is based on all meeting Minutes from July 13, 2015 thru Sept. 12, 2015

1. Chair Wilson Barton called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Police Training Center.
2. Student representative Angelina Pinkney led the flag salute.
3. Commissioner Severin recited the Mission Statement.
4. Commissioners Present: Wilson Barton, Carriazo, Chandrasena, Chappell, Hunt, Newby (arrived at 9:03 a.m. and left at 10:56 a.m.), Rankins, Severin, and Sutton-Weiss. Student representative Angelina Pinkney was also present.
Absent: Student representative Kelli Martin.
5. **POSTING OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act on or before 4 p.m., on Sept. 8, 2015.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
7. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 13, 2015 MEETING:** The minutes from the July 13, 2015 HRC meeting were unanimously approved 9-0 following a motion by Commissioner Severin and second by Commissioner Sutton-Weiss.

NOTE: Following approval of the minutes, Chair Wilson Barton stated that the agenda would be configured so that the business portion of the meeting would precede the 2015/2016 Business Planning Session. Prior to moving to Section 9 of the agenda, Chair Wilson Barton read a letter from former Student Representative Maddie Barton.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / AND OR VOTE:

9.A Chair's appointment of a Commissioner to the Palm Springs Homelessness Committee: Chair Wilson Barton recapped the July 13, 2015 discussion with City Manager, David Ready about appointing a member of the HRC to the City's newly formed Homelessness Committee. The Task Force does not have a set meeting schedule at this time, however, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at City Hall. The Committee has four subcommittees that will be looking at specific areas of homelessness: Housing; Work; Youth; and Addiction. After a brief

discussion it was clarified that the HRC had the opportunity to appoint one representative to the committee but that Commissioners could also serve on the four subcommittees. Commissioner Severin, who participated last year in the homeless count, expressed her interest in serving on the committee. Chair Wilson Barton then appointed Commissioner Severin as the HRC's representative to the Palm Springs Homelessness Committee.

9.B Participation in the Palm Springs Pride Parade, 10 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015: Commissioner Hunt will be the HRC Pride Parade Captain, submitting the application/paperwork for the Commission to be in the parade and communicating where in the parade lineup the Commission will be. Chair Wilson Barton will have her electric car and will provide feather boas. The following Commissioners have committed to marching in the parade: Chandrasena, Chappell, Hunt, Newby, Rankins, Severin, Sutton-Weiss, Wilson Barton and Student representative Pinkney. It was noted that to ensure a position early in the parade, it would be necessary to be in contact with Ron deHarte and ask to be part of the City's entry.

9.C Participation in the Veterans Day Parade, 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 11, 2015: Commissioner Severin will turn the parade application over to Commissioner Hunt for follow-up. The following Commissioners have committed to participating in the parade: Chandrasena, Chappell, Severin, Sutton-Weiss, Wilson Barton, and Student representative Pinkney. Commissioner Severin indicated that she would bring a cooler of water and that someone will need to be in charge of the HRC banner.

NOTE: At this point in the meeting, Chair Wilson Barton moved to Item 8.A on the agenda and asked everyone to introduce herself/himself including name, years on the Commission and the one thing that drives him/her to participate as part of the HRC.

9.D Participation in the Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, Nov. 20, 2015 in Ruth Hardy Park: Commissioner Sutton-Weiss spoke with Thomi Clinton who would like the HRC to have a booth. Booth time is scheduled for 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Severin had already indicated her willingness to work the booth. She will complete the application for participation. The following Commissioners indicated they would participate: Severin, Chappell, Newby, Rankins, and Sutton-Weiss.

NOTE: Chair Wilson Barton drew everyone's attention to a New York Times article that she had distributed to the group via staff. The article references the long history of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. The Chair invited Commissioners to review the article prior to attending the Nov. 20th vigil.

9.E Upcoming request for an endorsement of a short film about a transgender woman, her self-acceptance and life in Palm Springs: Commissioner Severin spoke with the filmmaker, Jessica Meroni. Ms. Meroni and two colleagues are putting together short film, "Diane from the Moon" for submission to the Cannes Film Festival. The movie is about her moving to Palm Springs and self-acceptance through her change. The filmmakers are looking for fund-raising support as well as additional support through endorsements. Commissioner Severin noted the challenges of endorsing a project that the Commission knows nothing about. Chair Wilson Barton suggested that Ms. Meroni be invited to make public comment at the October HRC meeting.

9.F Continued report on the State and CDC prevention options regarding primary HIV prevention education funding: Vice Chair Newby noted a recent addendum to the CDC's 2015/2020 Plan in a 90-page booklet of recommendations on the issue of HIV/AIDS prevention as well as the work being done by the Desert AIDS Project with initiatives like "Get Tested Coachella Valley". Vice Chair Newby recommended that this item be taken off the agenda.

9.G Redesign the Commission's logo: Chair Wilson Barton introduced the topic by saying this would not be a Commission-wide focus, but should be handled by a small subcommittee charged with working with designers and vendors on possible new designs. Commissioner Severin said in light of educate, advocate and action, it might be a good time to put some ideas together and think about a new logo in terms of promoting the Commission within the community. Commissioners Carriazo, Rankins and Sutton-Weiss concurred that an update to the logo would be appropriate. Commissioners Carriazo and Rankins volunteered to work on a logo/branding work group with Commissioner Severin.

NOTE: Chair Wilson Barton asked Vice Chair Newby to provide a brief synopsis of the activities around the film "Uniquely Nasty" about a campaign conducted by the U.S. government through J. Edgar Hoover and other politicians against primarily gay men in U.S. government. The term "uniquely nasty" came from a memorandum that was addressing the issue. He said the government was not secret about how it treated LGBT individuals within government and the words used to describe them.

This concluded the business portion of the HRC Meeting at 9:43 p.m.

8. HRC BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2015/2016 – Retreat session facilitated by Chair Dee Dee Wilson Barton

8.A Introductions – this occurred earlier in the meeting.

8.B Quick round table – Each Commissioner named two skills and two passions as related to the work of the HRC.

Vice Chair Newby: Communication, marketing, compassion and outreach

Commissioner Carriazo: Bilingual, analysis skills, creative, problem solving

Commissioner Sutton-Weiss: Enthusiasm, problem solving, outreach

Commissioner Rankins: Persistence, event planning, marketing

Commissioner Hunt: Insight from various lenses, compassion, empathy

Commissioner Severin: Strong business skills, mediation skills, team building

Commissioner Chappell: Compassion, history of working for the rights of people, dedication to causing a positive change

Commissioner Chandrasena: Insight, communication

Student representative Pinkney: Communication, compassion

Chair Wilson Barton: Organization, time management, facilitation, big picture focus

8.C Overview of 2014/2015 – Vice Chair Newby handed out a three-page summary of the goals and achievements of the Commission for 2014/2015 (attached as Appendix I). Chair Wilson Barton highlighted a list of action items the Commission had for 2014/2015:

- Ask the City Manager to attend HRC meetings – He attended in July.
- Invite the community to view films that highlight topics – "Uniquely Nasty"
- Make concrete recommendations to the City Council for action – Although the issue of renaming Crossley Road to Lawrence Crossley Road has not yet come before the City Council for a vote, it is an item that the HRC supports. Commissioner Severin said she read a letter of support at both the Planning Commission and City Council meetings. Chair Wilson Barton noted praise for the HRC's support of the name change from Trae Daniel at a public meeting in the Desert Highlands Community. She cited this as an example of moving from education to advocacy and action.
- Ask the City Council what the HRC can do for the City.

Chair Wilson Barton reviewed the list of topics that the Commission wanted to address in 2014/2015:

- Cultural Proficiency (Commissioners Hunt and Chandrasena)
- Seniors/Ageism (Vice Chair Newby) – HRC co-sponsored a symposium at the Mizell Center with the State Commission on Aging.
- Women's Issues (Chair Wilson Barton and Commissioners Severin) – perhaps not enough done on this topic
- Homelessness (Commissioners Brown and Rankins) – Police Chief Al Franz and Officer were guest speakers. This topic also will be addressed with the appointment of Commissioner Severin to the City's Homelessness Committee
- AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Vice Chair Newby, Commissioner Zendle and the student representatives – Ralph Gonzalez from DAP who manages the "Get Tested Coachella Valley" awareness campaign, was a guest speaker at a HRC meeting.
- Mediation Services (Commissioners Severin and Sutton-Weiss) – The recent work that has been done on this program by Commissioner Severin was noted.
- Literature – Has been reviewed and culled
- Parade participation and logistics
- Community Service Awards

8.E Fiscal year 2015-2016 budget – Chair Wilson Barton noted that the HRC has an annual budget of \$2,000. She stated that the HRC is reactive with its money rather than pro-active. She also noted that during his appearance at an HRC meeting the City Manager asked the Commission, “What do you need?” Staff described some of what the budget covers such as Commissioner name plates, plaques for the Service Awards, banner, Harvey Milk Breakfast, volunteer insurance, refreshments for the planning session, event costs, business cards. Staff noted that the \$2,000 budget does not roll over. Commissioner Rankins noted that the Commission reduced its budget during the recession and it has not been increased since then. Vice Chair Newby said he thinks the Commission should look at the budget after it decides what it wants its priorities to be and match the budget expenditures to the priorities. Commissioner Severin noted that the cost of a table at the Harvey Milk Breakfast will double to \$1,000, and there might be additional costs associated with doing something different with the Service Awards. Chair Wilson Barton suggested that she and staff work together to create a projected budget based on past expenditures but she also encouraged her fellow Commissioners to be thinking about what, in the course of the morning’s planning, will require funding.

8.D Job descriptions and expectations for Commissioners:

1. Attendance at monthly meetings (11 per year – dark in August). If unable to attend a meeting contact the Chair and staff via email or phone.
2. Mandatory attendance at September Planning Meeting
3. Lead or participate in at least one subcommittee:
 - Community Service Awards (3) Commissioners Sutton-Weiss, Rankins and Carriazo.
 - Parades (1) Commissioner Hunt
 - Press/Media Rep (1) Vice Chair Newby
 - Mediation (1) Commissioner Severin
 - Website/Branding (3) Chair Wilson Barton and Commissioners Severin and Chappell
 - Literature/Event Set Up/Storage Management (2) Commissioners Chappell and Carriazo
 - Outreach to other cities (1) Chair Wilson Barton
 - Vice Chair (1) Commissioner Newby
 - Chair (1) Commissioner Wilson Barton
4. Representatives
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Chair Wilson Barton
 - Police LGBT Community – Commissioners Rankins and Sutton-Weiss
 - City’s Homelessness Committee – Commissioner Severin
5. Responsible for a monthly meeting by arranging guest speaker(s) to address that month’s topic

The Commission took a break from 10:15 to 10:27 a.m.

6. Community Outreach – Chair Wilson Barton commended Commissioners Rankins and Hunt for creating action on the issue of race relations and disenfranchised populations. She went on to say that being in the community to hear the issues is really the job of the Commission. The focus will be on advocacy and action with community outreach will be a measure of success for the year:
 - Mizell – Vice Chair Newby and Commissioner Chandrasena
 - Desert Highland – Chair Wilson Barton and Commissioner Hunt
 - LGBT Center – Vice Chair Newby and Commissioners Rankins and Chappell
 - Libraries – Commissioners Severin and Chandrasena
 - City Council – Once a month HRC public comment at City Council Meeting (rotating)
 - Board of Education – Commissioners Sutton-Weiss and Chandrasena, Chair Wilson Barton
 - ONE-PS – Vice Chair Newby
 - Palm Springs Art Museum – Commissioner Severin
 - Desert AIDS Project – Vice Chair Newby and Commissioner Chappell

8.F Select human rights areas of focus for 2015/2016: (after Vice Chair Newby listed the topic of Equal Access in Education and Government he left the meeting at 10: 56 a.m.)

- Homeless
- Veterans
- Race Relations
- Ableism
- Affordable/Fair Housing
- Income Disparity
- LGBT
- Seniors
- Women's Representation
- Equal Access in Education/Government
- Child Hunger

8.G Discuss Community Center Inclusion/Community Outreach [see list under 8.D(3) on pg. 4]

8.H Map out calendar of selected human rights areas of focus for 2015/2016 and make assignments:

OCTOBER 2015: Gender Neutral Bathrooms and Transgender Issues
Guest Speaker(s): Jane Mills / Thomi Clinton
Coordinated by: Commissioners Sutton-Weiss and Hunt

NOVEMBER 2015: Homelessness
Guest Speaker(s): Martha's Village and Well in the Desert
Coordinated by: Commissioners Chappell and Rankins with input from
Commissioner Severin

DECEMBER 2015: Affordable/Fair Housing
Guest Speaker(s): Dale Cook and others
Coordinated by: Commissioner Rankins

**JANUARY 2016: Review/Re-strategize HRC Outreach Efforts
Annual Report**
Coordinated by: Chair Wilson Barton

FEBRUARY 2016: Community Service Awards

MARCH 2016: Race Relations
Guest Speaker(s): Desert Sun Race Relations Survey Group
Coordinated by: Commissioner Carriazo

APRIL 2016: Equal Access in Education/Government
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Commissioner Hunt and Vice Chair Newby

MAY 2016: Women's Issues/Child Hunger
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Chair Wilson Barton and Student Rep. Angelina Pinkney
Commissioner Hunt to address Child Hunger

A veterans offsite event at the American Legion
Coordinated by: Commissioner Severin

JUNE 2016: LGBT Issues
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Commissioner Sutton-Weiss

JULY 2016: **Ableism**
Guest Speaker(s): TBA
Coordinated by: Commissioner Chandrasena

8.1 Commissioners' personal goals for the year related to the Commission:

- Lee Bonno: Annual Report in tandem with Chair Wilson Barton
- Terry Towne: Timely recording of the minutes
- Commissioner Hunt: Provide more advocacy, voice and educate people
- Commissioner Rankins: Continued focus on race relations that effect the City
- Commissioner Sutton-Weiss: Continued outreach in the community on behalf of the HRC
- Commissioner Carriazo: Race relations and outreach to the Latino Community
- Student Rep Angelina Pinkney: Bringing awareness of human rights to her peers and communication with her school administration about issues to bring before the HRC
- Commissioner Chandrasena: Work with her community of disabled students/people to promote personal lifestyle sustainability in their lives.
- Commissioner Chappell: To better understand the issues and to provide impetus for action
- Commissioner Severin: Engage each HRC Commissioner in co-mediation and to realize a successful mediation program that all can be proud of. [Handed out an informational page about the mediation program (refer to Appendix II).
- Chair Wilson Barton: To do more public speaking – would like to have 8-10 speaking engagements by the next HRC Planning Session.

NOTE: Prior to adjournment, Chair Wilson Barton went around the room saying one thing to each person:

- Terry – “You’re a lifesaver”
- Eduardo – “You have this big open heart – that’s what you are to me”
- Jiliska – “You have such compassion and passion – that’s what you bring to me and this Commission”
- Angelina – “You have so much promise and you are poised and ready – this is the perfect moment for you”
- Denise – “I think you are heroic and an award winner on our Commission”
- Janel – “You are the fiercest champion for children and that matters to me”
- Jack – “Brings big picture brilliance to this Commission”
- Wes – “You are a relentless voice for those who don’t have one”
- Suzanne – “You bring such a limitless passion for human rights – we are so lucky to have that on this Commission.
- Deborah – “I love the enthusiasm and the passion on behalf of children”
- Lee – “Your knowledge and without your sense of humor the job for me would be hard but the fact that we can work together and still have a laugh while we’re doing it is so important”

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Towne
Volunteer, Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations
For

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

HRC 09122015 - Appendix I

**Palm Springs Human Rights Commission
Review of 2014 – 15 Year
Human Rights Commission Retreat- September 12, 2015**

September 27 – Planning Meeting

This is the list of topics identified by the Commission at the Sept. 27 planning meeting and Commissioners assigned to them:

- Cultural Proficiency – Commissioners Hunt and Chandrasena (disabled population)
- Seniors/Ageism – Vice Chair Newby
- Women's Issues – Chair Wilson Barton, Commissioners Reynolds and Hunt
- Homelessness – Commissioners Brown, Rankins and Sutton-Weiss (human trafficking)
- AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Diseases – Vice Chair Newby, Commissioner Zendle and the student reps
- Mediation Services – Commissioner Reynolds and Sutton-Weiss

Commissioners outlined the following calendar:

- October – Cultural Proficiency, Pride, Annual Report, Fair Housing, City's Human Resources Director
- November – Seniors/Ageism, Women's Representation
- December – Homelessness, Seniors/Ageism public forum; Community Service Awards recipients chosen
- January – Community Service Awards presented
- February – Homelessness, Black History Month Parade
- March – Women's events, PSNIC Picnic & Community Expo, mid-year review

October 13, 2014

- Report from Perry Madison, Director of Human Resources presented information regarding the hiring and promoting of women and other minority groups in the City. He distributed information reviewing the population of the City, the number of men and women employed in the City and the recruiting and hiring challenges, especially in the public safety arena.
- Mr. Madison also provided an update on the City's Cultural Humility/Diversity training. The training included approximately 400 employees, with a 92% participation rate. A special training for City Commissioners was attended by approximately 35 Commissioners. Additional work is being done in Public Safety and as a result of the training the City updated its equal opportunity statement.
- Review of Fair Housing in the City presented by Dale Cook along with City consultant Veronica Tam. There was a review of housing conditions, economic impacts, and demographic changes.

November 10, 2014

- Ageism and Employment was presented by George Puddephatt of the Workforce Division of the Riverside County Economic Development Agency. Reviewed how ageism affects older adults seeking employment. Discussed programs being presented by the County to assist older adults in seeking employment and how to address ageism issues. He provided an overview of the County services and how individuals can access those services.
- Commissioner Hunt provided an overview of Cultural Proficiency and reviewed Mason, et al Cultural Competence Model.
- Commissioner Reynolds provided an update on the Commission Mediation Services and how the program might expand to better serve residents.

December 8, 2014

- Review and approval of Community Awards Recipients Recommendations.
- Commissioner Reynolds provided an update on **Commission Mediation Services**. She met with the Neighborhood Involvement Committee and how the program might be expanded and how the Commission can play a leading role.

January 12, 2015

- Presentation of 12 Community Service Awards.

February 9, 2015

- Review and critique of Community Service Awards and Criteria. Discussion of improvements in the process.
- Review of the upcoming topics for commission meetings to stay on track with the September Planning Meeting and Commissioner responsibilities.
- Update on **Mediation Services** included a **Mediation Training** to be held on February 11. Also a report on meetings with the City Attorney and how the Commission Mediation can interface with City Departments.

March 9, 2015

- Presentation on **Cultural Proficiency** by Allison Hayes, and administrator with the Riverside County Office of Education. Presented a video on the subject of mindfulness and the importance of self-awareness in Cultural Proficiency. There was discussion by Members of the Commission and how our own training and personal journey's in becoming more aware and understanding our own role in Cultural Proficiency.
- There was a discussion about the Commission participation in community events, fairs, and parades and the benefit to the Commission and Community.

April 13, 2015

- Presentation by Judy May from Incight regarding issues facing persons with disabilities other than those who are not developmentally disabled. Review statistics regarding people with disabilities, their employment challenges and how participation in public sporting activities can help remove the stigma related to persons with disabilities.
- The commission determined to participate in the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast on May 22.
- Announced presentation on Aging to take place at Mizell Senior Center on May 7.
- Chair Wilson-Barton reported on her meeting with David Ready and the **Commission's** role with the City. The Commission discussed possible steps and community outreach.

May 7, 2015

- **Presentation: We've Come to Far to Be Treated Like This** co-sponsored by the HRC and Mizell Senior Center and the Riverside County Office on Aging. The presentation included Sandra K. Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the California Commission on Aging and Michelle Haddock,

Director of the Riverside County Office on Aging. There were approximately 49 attendees and a representative from Eduardo Garcia's Office attended and presented certificates of recognition to the co-sponsors and discussed possible legislative initiatives. The presentation covered the growth of the senior population in Riverside County, employment challenges for older adults, and stigma.

May 11, 2015

- Presentation from the Braille Institute and their programs as well as the challenges faced by persons who are blind or with low vision.
- Presentation by Kathy Little, Special Education Director at Palm Springs Unified School District. She spoke about the disability services provided by the District and moving to full inclusion, rather than special classes. Students tend to graduate at a higher rate if they are included in general classes.
- Discussion of a Meeting at the Desert Highland Gateway Community Center. The meeting is on June 9 and commissioners will attend to educate the community about the HRC.

June 8, 2015

- Presentation from Ralph Gonzales on Get Tested Coachella Valley and HIV Testing, Prevention, and Education. DAP provides in school education as well as community education.
- Discussion of future topics including David Ready attending a meeting and how the City and HRC can work together.
- Special item regarding support of the Trans-Pride Event to be held on Sunday, June 28. The Commission voted to support the Trans Pride Picnic.
- Commissioner Severin reported on her meeting with David Ready and working with the City Attorney in preparation for Mediation Services Program implementation.

July 13, 2015

- City Manager, David Ready opened a dialogue with the Commission about how the City can interact and assist the HRC and how the Commission can assist the City. He is happy to work with the HRC on finding resources and facilitating projects. There was commission discussion about under-representation in City Commissions and employment. There were discussions on collaboration and partnering with the City Council and other Commissions. There was discussion about Commission representation on the Homeless Task Force.
- Update on Cultural Proficiency/Diversity and July 2 meeting with Perry Madison, Director of PS Human Resources, Vice-Chair Newby and Commissioner Severin. Mr. Madison felt that the city-wide training had opened up a dialogue within the City and had facilitated changes in some departments.
- Report on the Desert Highland Gateway Community meeting. Chair Wilson-Barton reviewed the meeting and learned about community concerns and potential areas where the HRC might work with this neighborhood.

The Palm Springs Human Rights Commission is available to assist Palm Springs City Government Departments by providing Mediation Services to resolve escalating and nuisance cases.



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Why Try Mediation?

- It works - 80%+ cases reach agreement
- It's efficient – it can address distraction cases that drain critical time and resources
- It's cost effective – it helps avoid unnecessary expenses, legal and otherwise
- It promotes a cooperative, respectful, bonded community where differences are accepted

Mediation is Helpful Where:

- parties have a willingness to constructively discuss the matter and solutions
- there are repeat offenders and issues are beginning to escalate
- next steps would include citation (formal noticing, warrants, legal action)

Mediation is a confidential service at no charge to participants. An HRC Commissioner Representative will guide a discussion of issues toward a written agreement acceptable to the parties. Sessions typically take 2-3 hours; a second session is needed occasionally.

* Cases will be referred to us via City Dept Heads to Lee. Discrimination cases are filed by the public via our website to Lee.

In 2004 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Dana Adkins, Host of the popular cable show “Yellow Brick Road”
- Mike and Carol Balasa, Co-Presidents of Palm Springs/Desert Communities Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons)
- Sheila Grattan, Chairwoman of the Palm Springs Homeless Task Force
- Earl Greenburg, Chairman of Transactional Marketing Partners
- Palm Springs Police Commander Mike Hall
- Mark Hogan, Member of the Palm Springs Mounted Police
- Jackie Lee Houston, Owner of CBS Channel 2
- Bob Hoven, Publisher of MegaScene
- Holly Hunt, Student member of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission
- Palm Springs Police Chief Gary Jeandron
- Dean Lockwood, Executive Director of the Mizell Senior Center
- Harold Matzner, Owner of Spencer’s Restaurant
- David Peet, Marketing Director of Amerinet
- John Jeffrey Rackleff, Former Captain of the Palm Springs Mounted Police
- James Rougely, Director of the Desert Highland Unity Center
- Lori Sarner, President of Pegasus Riding Academy
- Jack Schloeder, President of Greater Palm Springs Pride, Inc.
- Mark and Alan Seymour, Owners of Hunters Video Bar
- Megan Smale and Kimberly Anderson, Founders of a Gay Straight Alliance student club on the Palm Springs High School campus

In 2005 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Kris Benz, President of the American Chamber of Commerce
- Bill Feingold, Former Chair of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission and the Hate Crimes Task Force
- Joseph Grandits, Director of the food program at Our Lady of Solitude Catholic Church
- Mel Haber, Owner of the Ingleside Inn and Melvyn’s Restaurant
- Dr. Catherine Linn, Chairman of the Palm Springs High School English Department
- Dr. Wayne McKinny, President of Well in the Desert
- Sylvia Zelnys, Former Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission and member of the Homeless Task Force

In 2006 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Joseph Beaver, Community Activist
- The late Albert L. Bousquet, Community Activist
- John Carlos, Olympian and Civil Rights Advocate
- Palm Springs Police Sgt. Walter Combs
- Jarvis Crawford, Community Center Manager, James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center

- Dr. Christopher Flores, Physician
- Palm Springs Police Officer Bill Hanley
- Palm Springs Police Officer Anthony Harrison
- Clarence Nolan, Raymond Cree Middle School
- Arlene Rosenthal, Community Activist
- Melinda Tremaglio, President of the Palm Springs Area Chapter of NOW
- Rev. Dr. Nick Warner, Pastor of Desert Oasis Chapel
- Ricky Wright, Palm Springs High School Principal

2007 – 2008: It looks like the Commission moved the awards presentation from December to January with awards presented in January 2008 to:

- Joe Aguanno
- Dorothy Bowens
- Richard Cadarette
- Fran Chapman
- Dr. Terri Cobel
- Sharon Doty
- Wesley Eure
- Officer C.J. Hilton
- Dr. Michael Jardula
- Bill Jones
- Phil Kaplan
- Marshall Percy
- Douglass Woodmansee

In 2009 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- The Well in the Desert
- Food In Need of Distribution (F.I.N.D.)
- American Veterans For Equal Rights
- Dr. Sharron Stroud, Founder of Interfaith Ministries Worldwide, Palm Springs
- Stephen Kelly, Host of the weekday radio program “Desert Today” on KPSI
- Dale E. Cook, Jr., Community Development Administrator for the City of Palm Springs
- Mario Lazcano, Member of the Committee Latino
- Dr. Robert C. Sneed, Pastor, Rebirth Temple of Faith in Palm Springs
- Sandra Austin, Executive Director of Family Health and Support Network, a foster care agency located in Palm Desert serving the Coachella Valley and Riverside County

In 2010 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- AIDS Assistance Program
- Desert AIDS Project
- Desert Samaritans for the Elderly
- Salvation Army

- Tolerance Education Center
- Arturo Montes, Fund-raiser for the Desert AIDS Project and other charity organizations
- Lois J. Carson, Executive Director of Community Action Partnership of Riverside County
- Father John S. Connor, Priest at Our Lady of Solitude Church in Coachella
- Stephen G. Hoffmann, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of Canyon National Bank
- Martin Martinez, Former Director of the Reynaldo J. Carreon Foundation in Indo
- Eileen Stern, Founder of the Hike4Hope and now the 1st Annual Walk Against Hunger

In 2011 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Sergio Carranza, for his work providing housing for the poor
- Golden Rainbow Center
- Elizabeth Miliband, spokesperson on behalf of people living with dementia
- Mizell Senior Center
- Eric Norland, long-time community volunteer
- Palm Springs SunUp Rotary – Shoes The Fit program
- Fern Rudd, Advocate for children with autism
- SAFE Schools
- Phil Stafford, 35-year teacher, retired from Katherine Finchy Elementary School
- Holly Witlow, volunteer working with stroke patients to help them regain their speaking skills
- Sister Gabi Williams, for her work finding ways to provide educational means for the poor

In 2012 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Animal Samaritans of the Coachella Valley
- Christopher Campbell, client administrator, AIDS Assistance Program
- Coachella Valley Sexual Assault Services
- Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine
- Eduardo Contreras, Director of Bands at Raymond Cree Middle School
- Cora Crawford, community leader and educator
- Deaf Seniors Foundation -- Palm Springs
- Katherine Finchy Elementary School
- Gilda's Club Desert Cities
- Hidden Harvest
- Barbara and Jerry Keller, philanthropists and supporters of human rights causes throughout the Coachella Valley
- Rabbi Sally Olins of Temple Isaiah in Palm Springs
- Luciano Ramirez and Toñia Bustamante-Ramirez, supporters of human rights
- Ric and Rozene Supple, philanthropists and advocates for human rights

In 2013 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Robert D. Ballance for his volunteer work for the LGBT Community Center
- Coachella Valley Repertory for its work on the topic of bullying
- Andrew Eisenmann, visual and performing arts director at Raymond Cree Middle School
- Equality California, a nonprofit civil rights group that advocates for same-sex marriage
- Andrew Green, pastor of St. Paul in the Desert Episcopal Church
- Doug Hairgrove and Warren “Woody” Wood for their Safe Schools initiative and work organizing the Gay Straight Alliances throughout the Coachella Valley
- William G. Kleindienst, former mayor, for his contributions to the City, especially his work with the African American community
- Mattie Leyden for her work on transgender issues
- Andy Linsky for his work both locally and nationally with the Human Rights Campaign and other organizations in the Palm Springs community
- Tracy Piper, Ed.D., Raymond Cree Middle School principal
- Shelter From The Storm

In 2014 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Roy’s Desert Resource Center
- Denise Chappell, special education professional and advocate
- Veterans for Peace
- Trina Parks, actress, arts educator & philanthropist
- David Tallman, United Methodist Church – Feed the Hungry Program
- Ophelia Project, Coachella Valley, mentors young girls
- Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D., human rights & health care advocate
- YMCA After School Education and Safety Program
- The Desert Sun
- Sidney Craig, humanitarian & volunteer

In 2015 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Desert, a one-on-one mentoring program that matches an adult volunteer with a child who is missing a role model or parental figure in their lives.
- Timothy Bradley, WBO welterweight champion who donates his time and resources to numerous charities throughout the Coachella Valley.
- Tere Romero Britton, the volunteer director of Coachella Valley BookPALS (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools), which has given away nearly 15,000 books to children from low-income families in the Coachella Valley.
- Carolyn Caldwell, CEO of Desert Regional Medical Center, for her championing of Get Tested Coachella Valley; the Unity Center in the Desert Highland Neighborhood and commitment to affordable, accessible, high-quality healthcare to everyone in the Coachella Valley.

- Get Tested Coachella Valley, a region-wide public health campaign dedicated to dramatically reducing HIV by making voluntary HIV testing standard and routine medical practice and ensuring linkage to care.
- Martha's Village and Kitchen, one of the largest providers of homeless services in the Coachella Valley and Riverside County.
- Mika Moulton, founder of Christopher's Clubhouse in La Quinta after her 10-year-old son was kidnapped and murdered in 1995. Christopher's Clubhouse is dedicated to teaching children safety and self-defense, and in doing so, empowering them to avoid exploitation.
- NestEgg Food Bank (flagship initiative of the Palm Springs LGBT Center), provides free groceries for up to 275 low-income Riverside County households each week.
- Dio Ramirez, MD and Liz Ramirez, RN, who have donated more than 1,400 hours of professional clinical services at the Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine free clinic in Indio over the past two years.
- Daniel Reynolds, a volunteer at the Braille Institute, which provides education and technology assistance to its clients.
- Michael Weems, who collects needed items for the homeless, and with the help of many volunteers, distributes Care Bags to those living on the streets around Palm Springs.
- Thomas Smith, president of the Palm Springs Rotary Club, who has more than 30 years of active community service focusing on literacy, youth with disabilities, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, and senior citizen assistance.