

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

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

## MEETING AGENDA

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

Monday,  
Dec. 14, 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 Thursday, December 10, 2015. A courtesy web site posting of the Agenda may be found at the City's web site [www.palmsprings-ca.gov](http://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:
  - Dale Cook, Community Development Administrator for the City of Palm Springs, will address affordable rental opportunities in Palm Springs and tenants facing rent increases.
  - Monica Lopez, Program Manager of Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, will address the fair housing legalities on rental agreements, renewals, and rent increases.
8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING
9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / AND OR VOTE:
  - 9.A Approval of Community Service Award recipients and expenditure of funds for plaques. The awards will be presented Feb. 8, 2016
  - 9.B Commission's proposed budget
  - 9.C. Recap of the Commission's participation in the Veterans Day Parade and in the Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil
  - 9.D Community Outreach Update
  - 9.E Task Force Reports:
    - Homelessness Committee – Commissioner Severin
    - Logo Committee – Commissioners Rankins, Severin, Carriazo
  - 9.F Public comment at the City Council meetings
  - 9.G Update on complaints of discrimination: Commissioner Severin
  - 9.H Commission's tentative calendar:

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

10. STUDENT COMMENTS:
11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:
12. STAFF COMMENTS:
13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 11, 2015 HRC MEETING:
14. ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures:

1. Minutes from the Nov. 9, 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 the Nov. 9, 2015 Regular 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	0	3	1	0
Eduardo Carriazo	0	3	1	0
Jilska Chandrasena	X	3	1	0
Denise Chappell	0	3	1	0
Janel Hunt	X	4	0	0
Jack Newby	X	4	0	0
Wes Rankins	X	4	0	0
Suzanne Severin	X	4	0	0
Deborah Sutton-Weiss	X	4	0	0
Angelina Pinkney, Student Rep	0	1		
Kelli Martin, Student rep.	0	0		

The above roll call record is based on all meeting Minutes from July 13, 2015 thru Nov. 9, 2015

1. Vice Chair Newby called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
2. Commissioner Severin led the flag salute.
3. Commissioner Rankins recited the Mission Statement.
4. Commissioners Present: Chandrasena, Hunt, Newby, Rankins, Severin, and Sutton-Weiss.  
Commissioners Absent: Wilson Barton, Carriazo and Chappell, all three excused.  
Student Representatives Kelli Martin and Angelina Pinkney were both absent.
5. POSTING OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act on or before 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, November 5, 2015.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
  - Trae Daniel expressed his appreciation to the HRC for its support of the proposal to rename Crossley Road/Golf Club Drive to Lawrence Crossley Road. He thanked Commissioners Hunt and Severin for their eloquent support expressed at both the Planning Commission and City Council. He noted that the motion had been tabled at a City Council meeting. He said a City Council member must bring the item forward again, which he has been assured will occur. Mr. Daniel said it was suggested that they wait until the first Council meeting in February, which is Black History Month. He urged continued support from the HRC moving forward.
7. GUEST SPEAKERS:
  - Commissioner Rankins introduced Arlene Rosenthal, a former HRC Community Service Award recipient and President of the Board of Directors of Well in the Desert. Ms. Rosenthal noted how moved she was by the diversity of groups represented at the Palm Springs Pride Parade and the spirit of inclusion demonstrated. She called for safety and shelter for all. She described the founding of the organization (20 years ago) and the wide variety of services offered to those in need (from hot meals, to clothing and furniture, postal services, service referrals, etc.). Ms. Rosenthal spoke of the increased in need for services since the recession and noted that the board (including herself) are all volunteers with many staffers being former clients of The Well. She also addressed The Well's current difficulty with their landlord wherein they received an eviction notice 9 months after they moved into a new location on Gene Autry Way. She said they have a lot of possibilities. She mentioned The Well Newsletter coming out next week that will tell

The Well's story. Commissioner Sutton-Weiss asked if the newsletter would be available online. Ms. Rosenthal noted that it would be available at [www.wellinthedesert.org](http://www.wellinthedesert.org). In answer to Commissioner Sutton-Weiss' question about donations, Ms. Rosenthal noted that it's "business as normal" at The Well. Commissioner Severin asked about Ms. Rosenthal's involvement with the Palm Springs Task Force on Homelessness. She responded that she is enthusiastic about future outcomes of their work. She believes the Task Force is made up of very committed individuals and feels that they are on the brink of offering some substantive solutions to the problem of homelessness in Palm Springs. Ms. Rosenthal indicated that she will be presenting the Task Force with a budget that will cover leasing three houses that can each house four individuals. Vice Chair Newby commended Ms. Rosenthal's work and asked how she approaches the problem of NIMBY-ism when it comes to moving forward with establishing facilities for the homeless. She replied that it is a matter of educating the public, adding that she believes that the community has come a long way in recognizing the plight of the homeless. She called for everyone to stand up for what is right. Commissioner Rankins asked about how the Commission could assist The Well. Ms. Rosenthal asked that the HRC support The Well's efforts to lease buildings to be used for homeless services. She believes that the City Council is, in all likelihood, going to support her efforts to obtain viable locations where assistance can be offered. She called for letter writing campaign stressing that the group who is called "homeless" is approximately 40% homeless and 60% working poor, elderly, and/or disabled. She called for everyone to advocate by learning more and passing that education along.

- Commissioner Chandrasena, on behalf of Commissioner Chappell, introduced Janice Delagrammatikas, Principal of the Come Back Kids Charter School program (Corona/Riverside and Desert areas) that is a part of the Riverside County Office of Education. Come Back Kids is a high school program serving persons 16-24 years of age. The program was established in 2008 as a dropout recovery program and in 2013 the program applied to be a Charter School. Come Back Kids has 21 sites in Riverside County, including one in Palm Springs. The goal of the program is for youth to complete the educational requirements for a high school diploma or a GED. Last year the program graduated 301 students, 46 of those were from the desert area. Come Back Kids is an independent study program with flexible hours for those students who work. A number of students are homeless, parenting or working. All school districts are required to identify students who are homeless or living in tenuous situations per Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act. Come Back Kids can offer assistance with transportation, hygiene, clothing, tutoring, and guidance services. Come Back Kids works closely with Safe House. Come Back Kids is a frontline resource for identifying students who are at risk of becoming homeless, noting that students who complete a secondary education experience are less likely to become homeless. Ms. Delagrammatikas highlighted a work-study program, funded by a Youth Build Grant, where students attend half a day of school and half a day of employment through the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act. She said that the teachers play an important part in identifying students at risk for homelessness and can immediately plug students into assistance services. She noted that Come Back Kids is part of the long-term solution to the problem of homelessness because in many cases a high school diploma is the key to job placement and post-secondary education. The vision of the Come Back Kids Program is to reduce the dropout rate in Riverside County and assist every student with an Individual Learning Plan that starts with flexible hours and an educational experience that builds strengths in a step-by-step manner. The program has an English language support program, special education programs, and on-site vocational training in a variety of areas. Come Back Kids centers are open early in the morning until late in the afternoon serving breakfast and lunch to students and are able to provide childcare. Ms. Delagrammatikas noted that it is often the connection between a student and a caring adult that provides a safety net that allows the student to complete his/her education. The program includes a college connection program that includes Financial Aid Student Assistance program support as well as apprenticeship support. Ms. Delagrammatikas asked the HRC for support in promoting the Come Back Kids Program. Commissioner Severin asked what has contributed to the increase in graduation rates since the inception of the program. Ms. Delagrammatikas said the graduation rate has increased to 83.9 percent since 2005 and she mainly attributed that to local school districts doing a better job in tracking those students who don't graduate and connecting them with opportunities to complete their education.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 12, 2015 MEETING: The minutes from the Oct. 12, 2015 HRC meeting were unanimously approved 6-0 (Chair Wilson Barton and Commissioners Carriazo and Chappell were absent) following a motion by Commissioner Sutton-Weiss and second by Commissioner Rankins.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / AND OR VOTE:

9.A Participation in the Veterans Day Parade, 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015: Commissioner Hunt noted that the HRC would be number 31 in the parade order. Vice Chair Newby will drive his car in the parade. Details of the parade were discussed. Commissioners were asked to be at the pre-stage location no later than 2:45 p.m. at Ramon Road and Palm Canyon.

9.B Participation in the Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, Friday, Nov. 20, 2015 in Ruth Hardy Park: The HRC will have a booth. Commissioner Sutton-Weiss said Thomi Clinton has asked booth participants to be there at 4 to set-up for the event which starts at 5 p.m. Commissioner Chappell will provide a table and chairs. Commissioner Severin indicated that she will contact Staff Liaison Lee Bonno, about obtaining the HRC materials for the booth. The actual vigil will take place between 7-8 p.m. Candles can be purchased at the TCC website.

9.C Community Service Awards to be presented on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016: Lee Bonno noted that the applications for Community Service Awards are available online on HRC's Webpage and that the deadline to submit completed applications is Friday, Nov. 13. She noted that Commissioner Severin made an announcement about the awards during Public Comment at the last City Council meeting.

9.D Request to endorse the short film "Diane Over the Moon": Vice Chair Newby said he was reluctant to go on record endorsing a film that is not yet produced. Commissioner Severin said that she had been in contact with the film's producers indicating that the HRC could not endorse the film at this time, but Commissioners would be happy to view an early release of the film and go from there.

9.E Community Outreach:

- Desert Highlands – Commissioners Chandrasena and Chappell attended the Oct. 13 meeting and spoke about the HRC highlighting the Community Service Awards. Commissioner Severin will attend the Nov. 10 meeting.
- Commissioner Severin said that she contacted two additional organizations – the Boys and Girls Club and Safe House.

9.F Task Force Reports:

- Homelessness Task Force – Commissioner Severin said the next meeting is Nov. 12 and she will provide a summary report from that meeting.

9.G Public Comment at the City Council Meeting – Commissioner Severin spoke at a recent City Council meeting to promote the HRC's Community Service Award application process.

9.H Update on complaints of discrimination: Commissioner Severin noted that a case (#2015-10-14) deals with a patron who filed a gender discrimination complaint against a Palm Springs business. A mediation session was scheduled in which Commissioners Severin and Chandrasena were to participate. The mediation was subsequently cancelled by one of the parties. The business involved notified Commissioner Severin that the complaint had been referred to their human resources department. Commissioner Severin will report back at the December meeting.

9.I Commission's Tentative Calendar:

**DECEMBER 2015: 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

**\*Note: This meeting may be held off site 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

10. ADGENDA ITEMS FOR THE DEC. 14, 2015 HRC MEETING:

- Draft budget will be presented. Vice Chair Newby noted that the discussion on the budget would be carried forward to December due to Chair Wilson Barton's absence.
- Community Service Awards recommendations.

11. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Rankins said Police Captain Walter Combs sent an email to the LGBT Outreach Committee making reference to the PSPD's vigorous investigation into the George and Chris Zander case. Announced a fundraiser at the Copa to raise funds for George's rehabilitation to be held on Monday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. Lee Bonno noted that she had received a call from the Anti Defamation League offering any support needed.
- Commissioner Severin spoke about the wonderful experience at the Pride Parade. She noted the extraordinary turnout and the 200 parade entries. Others agreed that it was a very positive experience.
- Commissioner Hunt noted that Palm Springs High School had its LGBT group come and make presentations on anti-bullying, suicide prevention/ awareness for ninth grade students.

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.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

DRAFT