

MINUTES
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 16, 2015, 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, 1st Floor, Oxnard, California 93030

A. ROLL CALL/POSTING OF AGENDA/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Kelly, Moreno, Quintana, Reynoso and Sorkin. Absent was Commissioner Davitt-Cornyn.

Luis Guereca, Secretary, and Rahsaan Tilford, Assistant City Attorney, were present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

C. INFORMATION/CONSENT AGENDA

1. SUBJECT: Minutes from August 17, September 21 and October 19, 2015 - Regular Meetings.

ACTION: Commissioner Kelly made the motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sorkin. Approved. 5 Yays, 0 Nays.

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. Susan Duenas, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, Oxnard Fire Department, provided an overview on disaster preparedness and updates regarding El Niño. Susan provided copies of the Ready & Resilient newsletter as well as a listing of events and programs organized by the Oxnard Fire Department. Susan did say that the City does have an emergency evacuation plan. An evacuation plan is required by law. Information was shared regarding an upcoming presentation entitled, El Niño Winter Weather Preparedness, scheduled for Thursday, November 19 at the Human Resources Community Room, 300 West 3rd Street, from 6-7:30 PM. The presentation is open to the public. In regards to El Niño, Susan discussed plans in place to provide shelter for those that may need it. Also, teams will be in place all over the county to keep an eye on areas that may cause flooding. Susan also mentioned the website for the Watershed Protection Agency, www.vcwatershed.org that anybody can use for live monitoring of possible flood areas and rain gauge.

Please refer to the video for more details.

2. Karl Lawson, Fair Housing Officer and responsible for duties for the homeless services program, City of Oxnard, discussed details on the analysis of impediments to fair housing and the fair housing assessment. He also introduced Arturo Casillas, the new Housing Director for the City of Oxnard. Karl used a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included a definition of the City's role in fair housing which includes the following: City and Housing Authority must ensure non-discrimination in housing when acting as a provider or funder of housing; all local governments which receive federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds must implement steps to "affirmatively further fair housing"; City provides and funds a fair housing organization to investigate citizen complaints and attempt resolution of claims of discrimination in housing. Data was shared regarding complaints in Oxnard regarding alleged housing discrimination. In FY 2014-2015, a total of 232 complaints were filed. Of these complaints, seven alleged housing discrimination. For the first quarter of FY 2015-2016, a total of 72 complaints have been received, with one alleging unlawful discrimination. In recent years, most allegations of discrimination involved issues related to disability or family status.

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Karl shared his personal opinion and said, "...we don't need more data, we need funds to help those that been discriminated against. Data is great for social science and public policy, but we need funds to help those that need help". Karl will provide an update to the CRC regarding funding to these programs and how much was applied. The Housing Rights Center (HRC) can provide plenty of outreach information to the public regarding their services. They can be reached at (805) 385-1800. Outreach and assistance includes those that are on the verge of being homeless or are currently homeless. Veteran's assistance is also available. Vice Chair Sorkin requested that someone from the building department be invited to a future CRC meeting so that the CRC can work with landlords and possibly assist them with the process applying for building permits and how the process can be made more palatable so that housing properties can be fixed and be under code.

Please refer to the video for more details.

3. Jason Benites, Assistant Police Chief, City of Oxnard, discussed his department's use of NextDoor.com and how it's being used to communicate with residents. Jason logged-in to NextDoor.com and provided a tour of how it works. They currently have just under 5,500 members with 8% of those members being households. NextDoor.com is as social media platform and is free to use. It started in 2011. It is entirely contained within neighborhoods. Across the United States, over 81,000 neighborhoods are participating with this service. The site allows users to reach out to neighborhoods/residents and share information with each other regarding community safety, neighborhood watch, etc.

Please refer to the video for more details.

E. COMMISSION/NEW BUSINESS

1. **SUBJECT:** Continue discussion regarding CRC's future involvement with the annual Multicultural Festival. CRC will review and discuss the crafting of a resolution that calls for the CRC to recommend to City Council that a Request for Proposal (RFP) be created to solicit interest from potential community organization(s) to procure the responsibility of the MCF.

ACTION: Rahsaan Tilford, Assistant City Attorney, prepared a draft of the resolution to be adopted by the CRC. If adopted, a copy of the resolution will then be forwarded to the City Manager with a request to agendaize the item for Council review and consideration. The resolution was written in such a way that if Council reviews it and creates an RFP for the Multicultural Festival, that it take effect in 2017. Reason for that is because based on the discussion from the previous CRC meeting, the thought was that the City couldn't finalize the RFP process and get someone in place by next fall. So, the recommendation to Council is to finalize the process and have it completed with someone in place by the resolution be adopted as written and called for a vote. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Sorkin. Approved. 5 Yeyes, 0 Nays.

2. **SUBJECT:** The Bylaws Subcommittee will lead a discussion on possible CRC procedural changes regarding motions from the floor for future agenda items.

ACTION: Vice Chair Sorkin co-wrote and read outloud his recommendation for a temporary action item and final submission to Oxnard City Council for approval of changes to the CRC bylaws. Mr. Sorkin recommended that this change be made immediately to take effect at the next CRC scheduled meeting and further suggested that the change be continued until the it is reviewed by City Council where by it becomes a

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permanent part of the bylaws. Vice Chair Sorkin would like to add an item on the agenda considering future agenda items. Rahsaan Tilford said that adding that item can be done, but to keep in mind that the ultimate decision of what goes on the agenda is with the Chair. Adding that item will be more of a recommendation to the Chair because that's how it's currently written in the bylaws. If the CRC wants to formally change that structure, the CRC would have to go to City Council with an amendment of the bylaws. Commissioner Reynos asked what purpose does the Chair have if this change is made to the bylaws? Will the Chair still have a vote, or would he have a vote? Or, does the Chair just run the meetings? Will he have a bigger say or will he have veto power? Vice Chair Sorkin said that this change gives the CRC body more voice in matters to override the Chair if necessary. Commissioner Kelly said the change will make the process more democratic. Next step will be for the City Attorney's Office to return with a draft resolution for the CRC to review and adopt, based on the recommendation read aloud by Vice Chair Sorkin. It will be presented next month. The vote will be to bring back a resolution with the proposed changes to the bylaws and to add a Future Agenda item to the agenda while City Council adopts the resolution. Approved: 5 Yays, 0 Nays.

3. SUBJECT: Consideration of guest speakers for future CRC meetings.
ACTION: N/A

F. REPORT OF COMMISSION SECRETARY

CRC business cards have been ordered for those Commissioners that needed them. There will be an MCF wrap-up meeting scheduled for November 24 in the 4th Floor Conferencr Room, from 11 AM – 12 PM.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth Subcommittee: No report.

Fair Housing Subcommittee: Vice Chair Sorkin said they had a wonderful meeting tonight, especially Karl Lawson's presentation.

Public Safety Subcommittee: Need to plan their quarterly meetings.

Multicultural Festival Subcommittee: They will attend the MCF wrap-up meeting on November 24 and will report back to the CRC. Commissioner Reynoso asked what happened to the remaining certificates from those MCF student volunteers that didn't show up to last month's meeting? Secretary will ask Martha.

Bylaws Subcommittee: No report.

H. COMMISSIONER NON-SUBCOMMITTE REPORTS

Commissioner Kelly would like to send prayers out to the people in Paris. Vice Chair Sorkin said he is excited about the resolution they've just passed regarding the MCF. Chairman Quintana asked about the Community Recognition Awards. Secretary will bring it back to the CRC for further discussion. Commissioner Kelly would like to find a way to improve outreach efforts. Rahsaan recommended that the discussion be agendized for next month.

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I. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Quintana motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:28 PM.

The next regular Community Relations Commission meeting will be Monday, December 21, 2015, in the Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West 3rd Street, Oxnard, at 6 PM.

Mario Quintana, Commissioner Chair

Luis Güereca, Secretary