



Minutes of the City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board

Regular Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2013

Family Advocacy Center

2nd Floor, Suite 200, Main Conference Room

625 Silver Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

1. Call to Order

Brian A. Eagan, Assistant City Attorney called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. (MST) on Monday, November 18, 2013 because the Board did not yet have a Chairperson in place.

Brian A. Eagan, Assistant City Attorney, as an Officer of the Court and authorized under state law to administer the oath, administered the Oath of Office to the six board members present including: Robert Poyourow, Erin Olson, Elaine Miller, Dusadee Sarangarm, Hwa Soon (Sue) Thorson, and Enrique Aguilar. All of the Members after verbally swearing the Oath then signed a written copy of the Oath of Office in the presence of a Notary Public of the State of New Mexico. They were then presented with their official Certificates of Appointment to the Board that were signed by Mayor Richard J. Berry and Gabriel Campos, Human Rights Officer. Copies of the Certificates will be recorded with the Office of the City Clerk. A majority (if not all) of the members of the City Council had also already voted to confirm the Mayor's nomination of each Board Member, prior to issuance of these Certificates of Appointment.

2. Roll Call

City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Poyourow

Ms. Erin Olson

Ms. Elaine Miller

Ms. Dusadee Sarangarm (by telephone)

Ms. Hwa Soon (Sue) Thorson

Mr. Enrique Aguilar

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Gabriel J. Campos, Human Rights Officer, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

Ms. Annabelle J. Romero, Deputy Directory, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

Mr. Brian A. Eagan, Assistant City Attorney, COA Legal Department.

3. Election of Officers

Erin Olson nominated herself to the position of Chairperson of the Board. Enrique Aguilar seconded. Motion for election by acclamation to name Erin Olson as Chairperson was made by Elaine Miller and seconded by Hwa Soon (Sue) Thorson. Erin Olson was then unanimously elected by acclamation.

Chairperson Erin Olson called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Board. Enrique Aguilar nominated himself and seconded made by Elaine Miller. Motion for election by acclamation to name Enrique Aguilar as Vice Chairperson was made by Robert Poyourow and seconded by Hwa Sue Thorson. Motion passed unanimously. Enrique Aguilar was elected Vice Chairperson.

4. Resolutions and Communications

Chairperson Erin Olson's motion to approve Resolution 2013-1 "Notice Requirements for Meetings of the Board" passed unanimously. The Board will meet four times per year (once every 3 months). The official list of dates of the Regular Meetings of the City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board for the year 2014 are:

Tuesday, February 18, 2014
Tuesday, May 20, 2014
Tuesday, August 19, 2014
Tuesday, November 18, 2014

In 2014, the Board plans to hold its Regular Meetings at the City's Office of Diversity and Human Rights, at City Hall, 2nd Floor, Main Conference Room, at 1 Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM. The Regular Meetings will now be held on Tuesdays and the meeting will start at 4:00 p.m., instead of 5:00 p.m.

Review of Human Rights Ordinance -- Gabriel Campos discussed the Human Rights Ordinance and some of the recent issues that the City's Office of Diversity and Human rights has handled, such as the airport rental car shuttle bus discrimination incident with the same sex couple.

Member Bob Poyourow, in regards to the legal issue of ensuring compliance with the NM Open Meetings Act by avoiding the formation of a rolling quorum of members, he expressed his "discomfort" with not being able to contact other board members outside of public meeting of the Board. And in particular, when it is to discuss the details of giving the public notice of an upcoming Board meeting or for discussion of what items of business will be listed on the meeting agenda. He prefers to avoid using blind carbon copy (bccs) at all on electronic mail messages and suggested that future emails to the Board from city staff include who is being sent a copy of the email message. It was agreed by city staff that in the future, a list of names of all the board members will be clearly noted on each email communication to them. However, the email message will still be sent out with the email addresses listed as blind carbon copy (bccs), to prevent a Board member from accidentally hitting a Reply All command and sending an email message to all Board members and accidentally creating a rolling quorum. Emails to and from board members are public record.

Gabriel Campos, Human Rights Officer, read a list of projects (list is provided in the minutes) the Office of Diversity and Human Rights (ODHR) has handled and provided information on initiatives like Pay Equity Plan that ODHR will be overseeing for the Mayor. Gabriel Campos then asked the board what they thought about the possible formation by the city of an incubator for the creation of new, local, not for profit social service organizations. Brian Eagan added that the city's new incubator office might serve to help kind hearted people understand all regulatory and tax requirements for the organization they are seeking to create and operate, how to get a tax exempt status from the IRS, and provide technical guidance. The South Valley Business Development Center is an example of this concept of an incubator for the creation of private, for profit businesses – the city's new incubator for social services organizations (non-profit corporations) that would assist people seeking to form a private, not for profit social service group that wants to address an unmet social service need in our community.

Member Bob Poyourow then spoke about the City's Resolution on Pay Equity issues. He asked what would the Human Right Board's response be to the study report when it is issued. Brian Eagan stated that since the Resolution passed by the City Council, then the Council will be the supervising body for the report on Pay Equity.

Chairperson Erin Olson then asked about how Board members can properly report any sort of issues that arise in between Board meetings and whether the issues (request for service) should be submitted to ODHR for processing and investigation. City staff Suggested calling 311 or directly to ODHR. The City of Albuquerque 3-1-1 smart phone application (a free software application for I-Phone or Android) was mentioned as another way to report specific issues to the City. For example: by sending in photos of tags/graffiti for painting over, or to document an example of Americans With Disabilities (ADA) act non-compliance, or to report other issues to the City government. A written complaint can be made via email to ccc@cabq.gov. Brian also mentioned that the private, non-profit social services group: Law Access NM, is funded by the City – they are a city contractor. Members of the public can call 505-998-4529 – and Law Access provides general civil pro bono legal advice over the phone on many topics. Examples include: landlord-tenant law, family law (divorce and child support and custody), consumer law – but not criminal defense law issues -- they can provide assistance via telephone in multiple languages as well.

Member Bob Poyourow suggested that City Ordinance requires a written annual written report by City Staff to the Mayor and the Human Rights Board. He would like to read an annual report with information like Gabriel Campos gave at this meeting on recent cases and office operations. Gabriel Campos indicated he would use the quarterly reports to develop the full yearly report submitted to the Board and the Mayor. Brian Eagan stated that the Board can submit the annual report when it is ready. The ordinance does not set a specific deadline to file the report. The ideal time to file the report is December 1st each year, since that is about the time Mayor is doing State of the City address, and the 4 year term of office for the Mayor and City Council starts on December 1. Brian also reminded the Board that the City's Boards and Commissions ordinance requires that a copy of the Annual Report be sent to both the Mayor and the City Council.

4. Public Comment

No one spoke or wrote to offer Public Comment.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairperson Erin Olson reminded everyone of the next Regular Meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the City of Albuquerque's Office of Diversity and Human Rights, at City Hall, One Civic Plaza NW, 2nd floor, Albuquerque, NM. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

READ AND APPROVED:

Signed copy available on request

Signed copy available on request

Mr. Gabriel Campos
Secretary to the Board

Ms. Erin Olson
Chairperson of the Board

Date: February 18, 2014