



Minutes of the City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 16, 2016
Office of Diversity and Human Rights
2nd Floor, Suite 201, City Hall
One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM 87103

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Enrique Aguilar called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. (MST) on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 in City Hall, Office of Diversity and Human Rights.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Enrique Aguilar
Ms. Elaine Miller
Mr. Gary Williams
Ms. Sue Thorson
Ms. Tina Tomlin

Board Members Absent:

Dusadee Sarangarm

STAFF PRESENT

Nick Bullock, Board and Assistant City Attorney
Gabriel Campos, Director, Office of Diversity and Human Rights
Ms. Annabelle J. Romero, Deputy Director, Office of Diversity and Human Rights
Shannon Triplett, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

PUBLIC PRESENT: none

2. Vice Chair Aguilar asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Elaine Miller motioned for approval and vote taken passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 was made and seconded. Approval of the minutes passed with four (4) yes and one abstaining.
4. Vice Chair Aguilar asked for a motion to accept the Director's Report. Mr. Gary Williams motioned and Ms. Tina Tomlin seconded the motion to accept.
5. Director's Report -- Mr. Gabe Campos, presented a compilation of two quarters summarizing reports on cases handled by the Office of Diversity and Human Rights (ODHR), a list of

projects/collaboration and training/events. He indicated ODHR closed 111 cases and explained the type of services ODHR is doing and what each reference means. Specifically “Referral” is when we pass them on and we can’t really do anything for them because we are pre litigation, “Brief” is when we spend a little time in trying to solve the problem, “Extended” means we spent a lot of time and “Investigation” means there is actually a report produced. He provided a sampling of cases that have been completed.

Mr. Campos gave an example of an incident that occurred at Presbyterian Hospital concerning a woman whose father was in the Hospital and the daughter wanted to spend the night there but was told she could not because of her gender. However, their policy was unclear and she was told that the gender would be disruptive. Mr. Campos called the Hospital and learned that there was no such policy but rather a Hospital employee at one level making that determination in behalf of the Hospital. The Hospital did an investigation on the matter.

Ms. Annabelle Romero talked about a sample effort concerning an issue that was brought to ODHR through the City’s Department of Senior Affairs. The issue surrounded the Ed Romero Terrace Apartments, a Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program. Two of the tenants felt they were being discriminated against because they were Hispanic and Native American. They also felt the property manager was retaliating against them because of the numerous inspections which were mostly coincidental including the City’s Family and Community Services Department yearly inspection where they randomly pick two units from their list of properties and they happened to pick the two tenants that were feeling discriminated against. Ms. Romero and CFCS met with the two tenants and explained the random selection and insured them it was nothing they did. All of the tenants felt better after our meeting with them and explaining the process. ODHR also contacted HUD and NM Congressional Office in their behalf and provided the tenants with numerous referrals they could contact as well.

Mr. Campos talked about another project with “looping” the Sunport. Looping allows people with hearing aids to pick up waves like a microphone making it easier for the deaf and hard of hearing to have the same access to announcements that others do. The NM Commission on Hard of Hearing made an assessment of the Sunport on a number of issues including looping and other things like captioning, accessible phones and it is a great partnership because the Sunport is in the process of renovating and excited to learn about some of these modifications that can and should be made, some at no cost but some like the looping has costs associated that the Sunport is looking into.

Mr. Campos mentioned another case that he has been working on regarding a gentleman with Cerebral Palsy who has been refused service at restaurants and bars because he is presumed intoxicated but he is not. This gentleman has provided documentation from his doctor stating there is no reason he can’t be served but anyone else would only be required to provide an ID with proof of age. The gentleman has been embarrassed to have to go through more proof than anyone else even though he is of age and doesn’t drive. Mr. Gary Williams suggested contacting the Aging and Disability may be able to connect with an attorney as well as John Block.

Mr. Campos also talked about a woman that shops at Whole Foods and noticed an item was mislabeled so she pointed it out to the store employees and wrote a letter to Corporate. On a later date when she was shopping she was confronted by a Whole Foods employee and was accused of stealing honey. ODHR staff visited Whole Foods to see if the woman could point out the employee that accused her of shoplifting. Unfortunately, the employee wasn't there so a determination could not be made nor did the woman have the name of the employee.

Mr. Campos mentioned other projects including the recently established ADA Council now meeting monthly, and a new contract/MOU between ODHR and Family and Community Services where ODHR will be doing some Fair Housing outreach.

Mr. Campos also mentioned a new initiative called Race Equity looking at whether people/citizens are participating in City services and employment at the rates expected. This is a Mayoral directive where we are looking at every city department beginning with employment then contracting. This will help us determine whether the reflection of what we're doing looks like our community. Vice Chair Aguilar mentioned that in New York City it is required to have a certain percentage of minority owned business contractors or subcontractors on any bids placed with the city especially Transit Authority. Mr. Campos responded that the City of Albuquerque does have such an ordinance but no one is following it because there is no list of Minority Owned Business Enterprises (MBE's).

My Brother's Keeper, an Obama Administration initiative that the Mayor is working on focuses on men of color but we look at it from anyone that is being disadvantaged. We are working with the County and UNM and other entities like the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative.

6. Public Comment -- The Board did not receive notification of public comment.
7. New Business/Announcements --- Elaine Miller mentioned the bathrooms at Bullhead Field were locked and instead the city had porta johns that were disgusting. Mr. Campos suggested reporting it through 311 as a formal complaint.

Vice Chair Aguilar asked whether the City is tweeting important information to the public. Mr. Campos responded that the Mayor and APD do so.

8. Adjournment -- There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chair Aguilar adjourned the meeting. The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:59p.m.

SUBMITTED:

READ AND APPROVED:

Signed copy available on request

Mr. Gabriel Campos
Secretary to the Board

Signed copy available on request

Dusadee Sarangarm
Chairperson of the Board