

**Human Right Commission
November 7, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Randy Cole, Noel English, Glenn Glasgow, Marie Glaze, Oona Paredes, Mark Thomas

Members Excused: Valeta Snell

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Steve Hollis, Nanette Ward, Alicia Cornish, Shawna Victor

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cole and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of 10/3/06 and 10/25/06 Meeting Minutes:** Thomas made a motion to approve the 10/3/2006 and 10/25/2006 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Hearing – FY2007 Human Rights Enhancement Program Funding Recommendations:** Hollis said he did not receive any written appeals from any organization.

Thomas made a motion to approve the following FY2007 Human Rights Enhancement Program Funding Recommendations:

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>FY2007 Allocation</i>
Parkade Elementary School	Celebrate the Dream	\$600.00
Friends of Peace Studies Faith and Education Collaborative	Seeking Common Ground Among Religious Faiths	\$600.00
Alternatives to Violence Project	AVP Workshops	\$600.00
Amnesty International Hickman High School	The Human Rights Crisis in Tibet: Venerable Champe Lhumpo	\$350.00
Hickman Global Issues Club	Crossing Borders, Connecting People: Eastern European Peace Conference	\$700.00
UMC – Multicultural Center (Asian American Association)	Asian American Awareness Week: Stir-Friday Night Performance	\$700.00
Jumpstart	MLK Jr. Cultural Diversity Fair “Exploring Diversity”	\$400.00
Eugene Field Elementary School	Field Pride Program: Social/Cultural Competence and Parent Involvement	\$700.00
Center for Multicultural Research, Training, and Consultation	Helen A. Neville Multicultural Lecture Series	\$200.00

The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.

Glaze noted these funding recommendations will be presented to the City Council at their

first meeting in December.

V. **Old Business**

- A. **Discussion of incident at Columbia Mall in 2/06 and subsequent inquiry:** Hollis said a draft ordinance was presented to Council at their November 6, 2006 meeting about a citizen's review board for the police department.

Thomas asked if the draft ordinance was discussed by Council. Hollis said that is correct.

Thomas asked if Council voted on the draft ordinance. Hollis said no vote was taken but the mayor does want an external group to review the police department.

Ward said the group that brought the draft ordinance to the Council was worried that Council would not give any consideration to the ordinance. The group does have some hope after the mayor's comments.

Glasgow asked what the time frame will be for this review. Hollis said staff will check on that and report back to the Commission.

- B. **Discussion of current relations with Islamic community:** This will be discussed during the public comment portion of the meeting.

VI. **New Business:** There was no new business.

VII. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** Hollis said there was a thank you card from the MU Asian American Association in regard to HREP funding.

- B. **Law Department:** No report at this time.

- C. **Investigator/Community Educator:** Ward gave the following study circles report:

- "Not In Our Town" National gathering in Bloomington, IL. in October
- Paquin Towers Resident Study Circle two, two-hour sessions in October
- October Study Circle: "Q: How Do You Treat a Person with a Disability? A. Like a Person."
- "YOU in Mizzou" program in October
- Upcoming events: November Study Circle, preparation for "Let's Talk, Columbia!", Paquin Tower Residential Dialogue session, "YOU in Mizzou" program, meeting with Department of Justice and Columbia Police Department in preparation for Racial Profiling training for CPD and community

VIII. **Public Comment:** James Robinette said he was a member of the group that presented a letter to the CPD in response to Chief Boehm's response to the incidents that the group cited as proving a need for a citizen review board. The group also presented a draft ordinance for a citizen review board to the City Council. This draft has similar language to the ordinance that was passed by the St. Louis Board of Alderman but vetoed by the St. Louis Mayor.

Robinette said there have been several incidents reported to them about citizens being mistreated by the police since February but only 12 were listed in the letter to CPD. The group had a meeting with Chief Boehm to request the charges be dropped for many of these

cases because none of the incidents were serious enough to merit giving someone a police record. Chief Boehm's response at that meeting was that the officers' actions were justified.

The group came to the conclusion after the meeting that the internal review process at the Police Department is a rubber stamp. Robinette said there are two sides to every story but the group questions whether the officers' actions are justified.

Robinette said the Council voted 4-2 in favor of having an external group review the Police Department's internal review process.

Robinette said during the meeting, the question was raised about how many complaints that were discussed in Chief Boehm's report were citizen complaints. Chief Boehm said none, all were internal complaints.

The group will be attending council meetings in the future to update Council on incidents involving the Police Department that they have heard about. They believe the Council should know about issues like this.

Robinette noted the group is not anti-police but would like to make sure that the Police Department is treating everyone properly.

Glaze thanked Mr. Robinette for coming to the meeting and updating the Commission on this issue.

Steve Jacobs said he was present on behalf of his friend, Shakir Hamoodi. Hamoodi is a well known business man in Columbia and is also known for his work in human rights. Jacobs said Hamoodi's home was raided by the FBI. The FBI confiscated some of property and the money he had collected for a charity and his family in Iraq. Hamoodi has not been charged with any crimes. Jacobs said he is before the commission to present a draft resolution for the Commission to pass and forward to Council for their consideration. The resolution would urge the FBI to expedite the case against Hamoodi and return all property and money confiscated if Hamoodi is found to be innocent. They are also asking that the FBI issue an apology to Hamoodi if he is found innocent. Jacobs said he understands a vote by the Commission would be symbolic but believes it would show the FBI that Hamoodi has the support of the community.

David Finke asked the Commission to remember what the purpose of this commission is and to know they can help make a difference.

Jacobs asked for those in attendance to stand and show their support for Hamoodi. Approximately 35 people stood.

There was discussion about whether the Commission should be dealing with this issue because Hamoodi has not filed a formal complaint. Glaze said the Commission could pass a resolution and forward that to the Council for their consideration. The Commission will not be handling this like other Human Rights cases because the Commission does not have jurisdiction over the federal government.

A few Commissioners expressed concerns about acting on anything without the permission of Hamoodi.

Many supporters of Hamoodi expressed concerns about the harassment that Hamoodi and his family have been receiving from the FBI and the possibility of something similar happening to others.

The Commission will contact Hamoodi before any further action is taken. If he agrees to resolution being submitted on his behalf, the Commission will discuss this matter further at the December HRC meeting.

- IX. **Commissioner Comment:** There were no Commission Comments
- X. **Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1):** Glasgow made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Thomas and a roll call vote was taken. Glaze called the roll with the following vote: Glaze – Yes, Paredes – Yes, Thomas – Yes, Glasgow – Yes, English – Yes, Cole - Yes.
- XI. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager
Office of Community Services