

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM 2B – 420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVE.
DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2011
TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

Est. Times

ACTION

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

	Present	Absent
Commissioner Wartchow, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Dowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Freeman, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Hain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Learmont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Mundt, Sec'y. /Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Sanderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MEETING PROTOCOL POLICY:

Please be aware that the Council has adopted a Meeting Protocol Policy which informs attendees of the Council's desire to conduct meetings in an orderly manner which welcomes all civil input from citizens and interested parties. If you are unaware of the policy, copies (orange color) are available in the wall file by the Council entrance.

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:

This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete an Agenda item by a majority vote of the Commission members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 31, 2011 regular meeting

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES:

- Rapids Read Expense Follow Up - \$37.89 over approval rate.
- Brochures (Accessibility Project) - \$68.11 over approval rate.

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Accessibility Project Grant Monies
- Hate/Bias Update

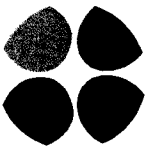
NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:



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CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B – 420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVENUE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission was held in Conference Room 2B of City Hall, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commission Chair Wartchow, Commissioners: Dowell, Hall, Mundt and Sanderson. Commissioner Learmont arrived at 4:12 p.m. Absent: Commissioners Freeman and Hain.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.
2. **SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO ADD TO THE AGENDA OCTOBER 6, 2011 ACLU EVENT UNDER NEW BUSINESS AND ADD HATE/BIAS RESPONSE PLAN, POSTER AND BROCHURES AND WEBSITE TO THE AGENDA UNDER OLD BUSINESS. The following voted in favor thereof: Sanderson, Hall, Wartchow, Dowell and Mundt. Opposed: None, motion passed.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES:** July 27, 2011 regular meeting

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2011 AS PRESENTED. The following voted in favor thereof: Sanderson, Hall, Wartchow, Dowell and Mundt. Opposed: None, motion passed.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Rapids Read & Commission follow-up program on August 19, 2011.

Commissioner Wartchow reported on the Hmong music and dance performance August 19, 2011 at the Grand Rapids Area Library. Approximately 20 people were in attendance and stated it was very good. He contacted the Reif Center about bringing them back to Grand Rapids and the Reif was favorable to incorporating their performance in the lobby before the Japanese Drumming in March, 2012 or before the Native American Dancer in October, 2011. No decision was made. Commissioner Sanderson volunteered to write a follow-up report for the grant. Commissioner Wartchow will contact the performers again for their mileage expense.

B. Hate/Bias Response Plan.

Chief Jim Denny arrived to discuss the City of Grand Rapids Police Department procedures regarding hate/bias response plan at the invitation of the Human Rights Commission. Commissioner Sanderson explained the Commission would like his input

on whether or not the City of Grand Rapids and the Human Rights Commission would want to adopt a similar Hate/Bias Response Plan as Red Wing has and asked him how the Police Department would feel about this.

Chief Denny distributed materials to the Commissioners regarding In-Service Training Policy and Reporting, Impartial Policing Model Policy (MN STAT § 626.8471, subd.4), Grand Rapids Police Department Policy – Impartial Policing Policy, Policy 338 - Grand Rapids Police Department Policy Manual – Hate or Prejudice Crimes and Policy 402 - Grand Rapids Police Department Policy Manual – Racial/Bias Based Profiling. The Police Department is now using Lexipol which provides updates on any policy that will need to be initiated. The Police Department will be implementing these new policies sometime in September through the end of the year and putting them into practice.

The Commissioners asked Chief Denny what role the Commission can play? How can the Human Rights Commission support the Police Department?

Chief Denny stated it took years to develop a working relationship with Advocates for Family Peace because of the extra work for officers; they now have a good working relationship. He stated there may be resistance at first, but the relationship over time would improve.

The Commission sees their role as supportive; 100 percent victim related; possibly working with the media to protect the victim.

Commissioner Learmont stated he noticed the definition of what is and is not racial profiling is different in different statutes in the material Chief Denny distributed. Chief Denny stated the other two policies narrow down department expectation. The County Attorney determines whether the crime is hate/gang related or not.

Human Resources Director Lynn DeGrio asked if there is any education needed for Human Rights members to be able to be involved. The Commission responded since this is the first time the Human Rights Commission is looking at this, they need to get information on what the Commission can and cannot do.

Commissioners thanked Chief Denny for his participation in the meeting. Commissioners Wartchow, Sanderson, Learmont and Hall volunteered to take Chief Denny's information along with Red Wing's Hate/Bias Response Plan, review and bring back recommendations to the Commission. Chief Denny asked the Commission to give him feedback on their review as well as questions they would like him to answer before the next meeting to assist him in preparing for the meeting. Commissioners consented. Chief Denny left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

C. Accessibility Mailing Update.

Human Resources Director DeGrio stated the second accessibility mailing went out August 19, 2011. After the first mailing she received two phone calls; she has not

received any calls after this second mailing. Commissioner Wartchow stated he received two telephone calls; stating they received the mailing and thanked him for the information. Commissioners thanked Administration for their efforts in expediting the mailing.

Commissioner Wartchow distributed the newly printed posters and brochures which were included in the \$3,000 grant to promote accessibility. They have until the end of December, 2011 to use the rest of the grant monies; possibly have a workshop for businesses and non-profits. Human Resources Director DeGrio volunteered to bring a financial report to the next meeting.

D. Update on Website.

Commissioner Sanderson stated she will meet with Eric Trast, Community Development, and will work with him to update the website with the definition of human rights and other websites for the public to access for more information.

5. NEW BUSINESS

October 6, 2011 ACLU Event.

Human Resources Director DeGrio distributed an email she received from the ACLU to Commission members. Not sure what they would like the Commission to do. Possibly get the word out, recommend Bixby's conference room. This is a racial justice project; more question and answer. Is the Commission interested in collaborating? Commissioner Sanderson volunteered to contact them and follow up.

6. Reports on calls and inquiries:

There is nothing more to report on the parent complaint regarding a student and alleged discrimination by the School District 318. In addition nothing more has been heard on the employee alleged complaint filed a while back.

Commissioners wondered with the State cutbacks, if the State was in a position to handle referrals. Commissioner Sanderson volunteered to call the parent with the alleged complaint and see if they were able to speak to anyone.

Commissioners discussed asking Lisa Rosemore, reporter for the Grand Rapids Herald-Review if she recognized any bias/hate crimes in her reporting police reports. Commissioners also felt she may be a good media resource in the future to protect the victim in media reporting.

Human Resources Director DeGrio stated the Commission could also review county court cases for hate/bias crimes. She volunteered to contact Lisa Rosemore to ask if Lisa would be willing to be used as a media contact in the future.

ADJOURN:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DOWELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MUNDT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:58 P.M. The following voted in favor thereof: Dowell, Mundt, Wartchow, Hall, Learmont, and Sanderson. Opposed: None, motion passed.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Schaefer, Recorder

Sammy's Pizza & Restaurant	\$ 308.00
AmericInn	\$ 82.41 ✓
AmericInn	\$ 82.41 ✓
AmericInn	\$ 82.41 ✓
AmericInn	\$ 82.41 ✓
Hmong Cultural Center donation	\$ 150.00 ✓
Mileage	\$ 250.25 ✓
TOTAL	\$ 1,037.89
Not to exceed amount	\$ 1,000.00
Difference	\$ 37.89
500 Rack Cards (Rush)	\$ 360.00
1,000 Rack Cards	\$ 309.40
500 Posters	\$ 330.00
Sales Tax	\$ 68.71
TOTAL	\$ 1,068.11
Not to exceed amount	\$ 1,000.00
Difference	\$ 68.11
Total amount exceeded	\$ 106.00

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2010

	<u>Actual 9/12/2011</u>	<u>Actual 12/31/2010</u>
Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
Brochures	1,100	-
Poster, Letterhead & Reprints	-	-
Copy Supplies	-	118
Video	16	919
Advertising	-	-
Dues	55	-
Postage	-	162
Seminars/Meetings/Schools	638	-
Speaker Expenses	400	350
Awards	-	-
City Staff Training	-	-
Contracted Services-Legal	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance Available	<u><u>\$ 1,791</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 451</u></u>

	<u>2011 Actual</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
Blandin Foundation Grant	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Original Mailing	500	500
Follow up Mailing	-	500
Brochures	1,068	1,000
Posters/Stickers	-	1,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance Available	<u><u>\$ 1,432</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

BENEFITS OF LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

1. The League is an influential human rights movement in Minnesota. There are 50+ local commissions in Minnesota which include cities and counties. The League collectively brings together Minnesota's local human rights commissioners to take action on human rights issues in their communities and throughout the State.

2. With local commissions, the League initiated a statewide Hate Crimes Response and Prevention Plan and Network. Today about 40 commissions have such plans. The League helps implement them and provide training for commissions and communities to prevent and counter hate crimes and foster good relations between the police and communities. The League responds to and counters bias-hate crimes throughout Minnesota.

3. The League is frequently involved in promoting human rights with students, teachers and schools. In cooperation with the U of M Human Rights Center, the League developed a comprehensive curricula on Human Rights for use by teachers and students. The League sponsors an annual essay contest on Human Rights issues, with cash awards and recognition given winning students. The League provides speakers to schools on topics, such as The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The United Nations, local implementation of human rights, and understanding conflict.

4. The League develops new programs that can be implemented by local commissions. An example is a rehabilitation program to help the courts and criminal justice system treat perpetrators of hate crimes more effectively, especially teenagers and young adults.

5. The League is a resource of speakers to commissions on a variety of fronts. It offers specialized speakers and resource persons from state and federal agencies, the E.E.O.C., the State Department of Human Rights, the Justice Department, F.B.I., and myriad other non-profit agencies and ethic organizations, as well as Police Chief and Sheriffs who the League has identified over the years as outstanding experts able to help build positive police-community relations.

8. Please provide us with any requests or suggestions on how the League could assist your commission in the coming year:

DATE: _____

Signed by _____

Title: _____

City/County of _____

Thank you for your kind attention and cooperation in helping us update our records.

Kindly return completed form by September 1, 2011:

via e-mail: thelma_mckenzie.leagueofmnhumanrights.org

via U.S. Mail: Thelma McKenzie, 1640 West Highway 36, #138, Roseville, MN 55113