



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall, Willamette Room

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. WELCOME NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS
 - Linda Hart
 - Julie Jones
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - June 22, 2010. [Pages 1-6]
Action: _____
5. SCHEDULED BUSINESS
 - a. Business from the Public
 - b. Updates
 - 1) 2010 National Night Out/Everybody's Neighborhood Day, Tuesday August 3, 2010. [Verbal] (Greenman)
Action: _____
 - 2) HRC annual report. [Pages 7-9] (Whitley)
Action: _____
5. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION
6. NEXT MEETING DATE: *Tuesday, August 24, 2010*
7. ADJOURNMENT

City of Albany Web site: www.cityofalbany.net

The location of the meeting/hearing is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify the Human Resources Department in advance by calling (541) 917-7500.



APPROVED: _____

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall Willamette Room
Tuesday, June 22, 2010
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

- Commissioners present: Margaret Martinez, Kim Whitley, Tina Dodge Vera, Michael Thomson, Nancy Greenman
- Commissioners absent: None
- Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Marilyn Smith, Management Assistant/Public Information Officer
- Others present: Linda Hart; Jim Bell, LBCC Civic Engagement Committee Representative; Mary Zelinka, CARDV Advocacy Services Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 27, 2010

MOTION: Nancy Greenman made a motion to approve the minutes; Margaret Martinez seconded. Approved 5-0.

RECOGNITION OF JODI NELSON

Whitley said that the HRC members want to recognize Jodi Nelson for all of her efforts and contributions to the HRC. Greenman said that she is hopeful that Jodi will continue to partner with the HRC. Tina Dodge Vera said that she will be missed.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

LBCC Diversity and Civic Engagement Committee Representative Jim Bell

Whitley introduced Jim Bell. Bell is an LBCC Civic Engagement Committee Representative. Bell said that he is attending tonight's meeting to talk about how the HRC and Civic Engagement Committee can work together. He said that he has been on the committee for several years and this past year they have decided to open up the group to other agencies. He explained what the LBCC Civic Engagement Committee does. Dodge Vera asked who the Director of the Diversity Achievement Center is. Bell said that Toni Klunk is the Director. Bell said that the Civic Engagement Committee would like to partner with the HRC.

CARDV Representative Discussing Sex Trafficking

Greenman introduced Mary Zelinka, who has been with CARDV for over two decades, and that she is here to discuss sex trafficking and how the City can partner with CARDV.

Mary Zelinka said that CARDV was incorporated in 1981 and that she officially joined the staff in 1990. She discussed the services CARDV provides to both Linn and Benton Counties.

Zelinka said that sex trafficking has gained a lot of attention in the last two years. Zelinka handed out a document regarding the statistics of sex trafficking [see attachment]. She said that a big problem is that prostitution is treated like a joke and that it is not taken seriously. She said that children are involved in this and as a community we can educate people. Zelinka said that it is important to train police officers, teachers, parks & recreation staff, and others about this problem. Wes Hare said that we routinely offer training for similar types of issues for certain staff including Maple Lawn Preschool staff. Hare said that P&R is likely to be open to a partnership with CARDV. He also mentioned that the Fire Safety Camps would be another place this education could be directed to.

Greenman said that she thinks most people wouldn't turn away a child in danger. Hare said that the YMCA has a mentoring program for children that need an adult figure in their life.

Zelinka said that educating people that this is something that happens in the community and what the possible signs could be is important to do. She said that kids may not speak up about a problem, but planting a seed about what could happen can make a difference. Hare asked what the statistics are for sex trafficking. Zelinka said that some studies have been done, but there are no concrete numbers regarding this. Whitley asked if there are places where it is more likely to run into people in this situation. Zelinka said that she doesn't know of any specific areas but CARDV has worked with people who have prostituted and worked in strip clubs. Whitley asked the HRC members what they want to do regarding this issue. Zelinka said that CARDV would love to be a resource for the City departments for training. Hare said that he will pass the information on to Wanda Omdahl (Fire), Ed Hodney (P&R), and Ed Gallagher (Library).

2010 National Night Out/Everybody's Neighborhood Day

Whitley said that we have secured the date and location for this event. Greenman said that she went to Costco and was able to get a \$25 gift card. She said that she will buy the condiments with that money. Greenman said that she gave a letter to Dari Mart and put Marilyn's contact information on it. Marilyn Smith said that she hasn't received any information regarding the request. Dodge Vera said that she contacted Albertsons, PepsiCo, and Mega Foods. She said that Mega Foods will donate drinks for up to 100 people. She said that she needs to follow up with Albertsons and PepsiCo. Whitley said that she has contacted Samaritan but hasn't heard anything yet. Bell said that LBCC should be able to help in some way.

The HRC members will all be in attendance at the event. Smith said that Lynn Hinrichs will provide a banner, a sign-up sheet, and brochures about setting up a neighborhood watch group. Smith said that APD and AFD will visit the event. She said that Lynn can also provide three t-shirts. The HRC members decided to use the shirts as prize giveaways. Smith said that she will check with P&R about what they will be handling at the event. Smith is going to talk to the volunteer coordinator and see if there will be people that will be available to place the door hangers.

HRC Annual Report

Greenman said that she is continuing to work on this. Whitley asked her to send it to everyone by e-mail for proofing. She asked that staff include the report from the last meeting with next month's agenda.

Plans for Conducting a Meeting at One of the High Schools

Greenman said that she is continuing to work with South Albany High School to talk about civil engagement with the students. She said that the plan is to conduct an HRC meeting at the high school and ask the students questions that have to do with what it is like living in Albany as a teen. Greenman said that she did talk to a Social Studies teacher and that she will touch base with them in the fall.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Willamette Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Wes Hare
City Manager



**Center Against
Rape and
Domestic Violence**
P.O. Box 914
Corvallis, OR 97339
(541) 758-0219

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is the recruitment and transportation of persons within or across boundaries by force, fraud, or deception for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In simpler words, sex trafficking is sexual slavery. Sex trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry. It includes prostitution, pornography, strip clubs, escort agencies, massage parlors, and online websites that sell sex such as Craigs List.

Facts About Sex Trafficking

- Average age of a woman entering prostitution in the United States is 13.**
- Estimates as high as 98% of prostituted women were sexually abused as children, leaving them conditioned to sexual exploitation.
- 72% of prostituted women are currently or formerly homeless.*
- 78% report being raped an average of 33 times a year by customers.*
- 73% report being physically assaulted by customers, with 83% of these being assaulted with a weapon.*
- 75% in escort prostitution had attempted suicide.*

**Melissa Farley, founding director of Prostitution Research and Education*

*** Estes, Richard J. and Neil A. Weiner. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work: 2001*

Sex trafficking is a risk to girls and women across the globe. In the United States, each year between 100,000 and 300,000 children, most of them girls, are trafficked.

Runaways, the poor, and girls and women from marginalized groups are the most vulnerable, but anyone can become a victim of trafficking. It is estimated that a runaway girl will be approached by a pimp within the first 48 hours of being out on the streets. But just as common are pimps meeting and befriending girls at the food courts at neighborhood malls.

Studies estimate that as many as 98% of prostituted girls and women are controlled by pimps. Traffickers lure girls into prostitution by preying on their vulnerabilities, isolating them from everything that is familiar or comfortable, and promising them love and security. A trafficker will then manipulate the child's world view until the child is

Fax: (541) 758-8458 • Hotline (541) 754-0110 • Toll-Free Hotline (800) 927-0197
www.cardvservices.org

completely dependant upon her exploiter. Control is maintained through deception and violence.

Yet prostitution and pornography continue to be standard fodder for jokes on mainstream television. Movies like the popular 1990's movie, "Pretty Woman," and popular music such as "It's Hard Out There for a Pimp," have glamorized the sex industry and convinced many that women entering "the life" or "the game" do so by choice.

Exploited children are often labeled "child prostitutes" or juvenile delinquents and are sentenced to detention facilities while those who buy and sell them most often escape consequences.

Sex trafficking is driven by the demand of the buyers. The trafficker is just the middle man. As long as there is a buyer of commercial sex, there will be child victims of sexual exploitation.

The arrest and prosecution of buyers and sellers of trafficked girls and women must be made a priority in our legal system. We must stop labeling victims of sex trafficking as criminals and instead treat them as the survivors of abuse and exploitation that they are – by providing them with protection from their traffickers and services for their recovery.

If You are a Survivor of Sex Trafficking

- **Remember that you are NOT to blame.** The perpetrators – the sellers and buyers – of trafficked individuals are responsible.
- **Place the blame where it belongs.** Guilt or self-blame is a frequent response to being used in the sex industry. Survivors sometimes worry that they could have done something to prevent this from happening to them. In truth, the pimp targets his victims. Choosing to make-out, stay out late, or wear certain clothes does not cause sex trafficking.
- **You may have a whole range of feelings,** including anger, fear, shame, dirtiness, shock, guilt, helplessness, distrust, disbelief, self-doubt, exhaustion, and depression.
- **Nightmares and flashbacks are normal.** Nightmares are a common, often terrifying, response to traumatic events. Many survivors also experience flashbacks – intense feelings of re-experiencing the events of being trafficked.
- **Seek support.** You do not have to deal with this on your own. When you're ready to talk, contact an advocate, counselor, supportive family member or trusted friend. The CARDV hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (541-754-0110 or 1-800-927-0197)
- **Give yourself permission to make your own decisions.** Right now it's important for you to have control over some part of your life. This may be difficult, and you may have mixed feelings about what to do. Give yourself permission to make the decisions that are best and healthiest for you. Talking to CARDV's hotline is a good way to get non-judgmental support and to find out about local resources.

CARDV 24-hour Hotline: 541-754-0110 (local) or 1-800-927-0197 (toll-free)

- **You may get lots of advice and questions from other people.** Some people may say things that sound like they are judging you, or trying to make you feel responsible for the abuse you have experienced. Remember that no matter what happened, **no one** deserves to be abused. It was **not** your fault.
- **Have a safety plan.** Put together a safety plan. Find others you can turn to for help and support: perhaps a family member or a neighbor. If possible, gather the basic things you will need if you decide to leave: money, documents, medications, clothing, etc. Call CARDV's 24-hour hotline for support, information, and assistance. (541-754-0110 or 1-800-927-0197)
- **It is possible to escape and heal from sex trafficking.** It will take time and work, but healing is possible, and it's worth it. You have already survived the hardest part on your own; you don't have to do the rest alone.
- **Contact CARDV.** CARDV offers 24/7 support through our hotline at 541-754-0110 or 1-800-927-0197. CARDV advocates are available to meet with you in person for support or can accompany you to the hospital, to law enforcement if you decide to report, or can attend legal proceedings with you. CARDV also has safe confidential shelter available.

You deserve to have support. You deserve to be safe.

How to Help a Survivor of Sex Trafficking

- **Believe her.** Let the survivor know that you believe her.
- **Listen to her.** Offer non-judgmental, non-blaming listening. Listen with compassion without asking questions that begin with *why*, or imply that she is responsible in any way for the abuse she has survived. Let her express her feelings in a time and manner that is comfortable for her.
- **Encourage her to call CARDV's 24-hour hotline.** (541-754-0110 or 1-800-927-0197)
- **Ask her how you can help keep her safe.** Let her know you are available to drive her somewhere, give her a safe place to stay, help her obtain needed medications or other medical services, make copies of important documents, or any other help you feel you can safely provide.
- **Be patient.** Don't try to rush her decision-making process. Give her time.
- **Encourage her to seek additional support.** Let her know it's OK to contact an advocate at CARDV or a professional counselor to help her work through the feelings she is experiencing. Helping her build a strong support network is one of the best things you can do.
- **Take care of yourself.** Supporting someone through a traumatic experience can be emotionally draining. Remember that the CARDV hotline and support services are for you, too.

("If You are a Survivor" and "How to Help" are adapted from resources at the Sexual Assault Resource Center and the Oregon State University Sexual Assault Support Services.)

CARDV 24-hour Hotline: 541-754-0110 (local) or 1-800-927-0197 (toll-free)

April 2010

Human Relations Commission

Commission Established

Council adopted Ordinance No. 5665, March 28, 2007, creating Albany Municipal Code Chapter 2.25, establishing the Human Relations Commission (HRC).

Council adopted Ordinance No. 5671, May 9, 2007, amending AMC 2.25.020 [*commissioners must reside within the Albany city limits*] and 2.25.030 [*initial terms to be staggered according to the appointee's surname beginning with three-year terms for those closest to the beginning of the alphabet*].

Purpose: The Human Relations Commission was established by the Albany City Council to promote harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany. It is created to recommend programs, activities, ordinances, expenditures, and other appropriate governmental activities which will serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions within our community.

First Commissioners

| Name | Appointed By | Appointment Date | Term Expiration Date | Comments |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| Rafael Palacios | Mayor Doug Killin | 07-25-2007 | 12-31-2007 | Resigned 08-08-2007; he relocated to California; Blanca Ruckert appointed as replacement. |
| Blanca Ruckert | Mayor Doug Killin | 08-08-2007 | 12-31-2007 | none |
| Jodi Nelson | Councilor Dan Bedore | 07-25-2007 | 12-31-2007 | none |
| Rick Hammel, Jr. | Councilor Dick Olsen | 07-25-2007 | 12-31-2008 | none |
| Delia Guillen | Councilor Ralph Reid, Jr. | 07-25-2007 | 12-31-2008 | none |
| C. Jeffery Evans | Councilor Sharon Konopa | 07-25-2007 | 12-31-2009 | none |
| Marian Anderson | Councilor Jeff Christman | 07-25-2007 | 12-31-2009 | none |
| Anna Anderson | Councilor Bessie Johnson | 08-08-2007 | 12-31-2009 | none |

First Meeting/First Officers

HRC's first meeting was Tuesday, September 25, 2007. At the second meeting [October 23, 2007], the first Chair and Vice Chair were elected. C. Jeffery Evans was elected Chair and Blanca Ruckert as Vice Chair.

Subsequent Commissioners

Resignations/Reappointments/New Appointments

- Blanca Ruckert was reappointed 01-07-2008 by Mayor Killin; new term expires 12-31-2010.
- Jodi Nelson was reappointed 01-09-2008 by Councilor Bedore; new term expires 12-31-2010.
- Anna Anderson resigned 08-13-2008; Councilor Johnson appointed Kim Whitley on 08-27-2008, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2009.
- Delia Guillen resigned 09-09-2008; Councilor Reid appointed John Hartman on 10-22-2008, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2008.
- Margaret Martinez was appointed 01-14-2009 by Councilor Reid replacing John Hartman, whose term expired 12-31-2008. Margaret's three-year term expires 12-31-2011.
- Nancy Greenman was appointed 01-14-2009 by Councilor Olsen replacing Rick Hammel, Jr., whose term expired 12-31-2008. Nancy's three-year term expires 12-31-2011.
- Blanca Ruckert resigned 04-22-2009; Mayor Konopa appointed Michael Thompson on 06-24-2009, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2010.
- C. Jeffery Evans resigned 06-24-2009; vacant term expired 12-31-2009. Councilor Coburn appointed Linda Hart on 06-23-10, for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2012.
- Marian Anderson resigned 09-09-2009; vacant term expired 12-31-2009. Councilor Christman appointed Tina Dodge Vera on 02-10-2010, for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2012.
- Kim Whitley was reappointed 01-13-2010 by Councilor Johnson; new term expires 12-31-2012.
- Jodi Nelson resigned 06-10-10; vacant term expires 12-31-2010. Councilor Collins appointed Julie Jones on 07-14-2010, for the term expiring 12-31-2010.

Current HRC Roster (as of 2-24-2010)

| Name | Appointment By | Term Expiration Date |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Julie Jones | Councilor Floyd Collins | 12-31-2010 |
| Michael Thomson | Mayor Sharon Konopa | 12-31-2010 |
| Nancy Greenman | Councilor Dick Olsen | 12-31-2011 |
| Margaret Martinez | Councilor Ralph Reid, Jr. | 12-31-2011 |
| Linda Hart | Councilor Bill Coburn | 12-31-2012 |
| Tina Dodge Vera | Councilor Jeff Christman | 12-31-2012 |
| Kim Whitley | Councilor Bessie Johnson | 12-31-2012 |

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2009

Sharon Gisler
Michael Thomson
Mayor Sharon Konopa
Gerald Gisler
John Phillips
Margo Coleman
Alice Fitzpatrick
Donna Copeland
Bill Root
June Hemmingson
Larry Eby
Penny Miltenberger
Dan Miltenberger
Phillipa Meehan
Dick Owen
Rosa Plascencia
Tina Dodge Vera

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2010

Clifford Hartman, Linn County Mental Health
Jim Bell, LBCC
Mary Zelinka, CARDV
Linda Hart