



# Agenda Report

**DATE:** OCTOBER 31, 2001  
**TO:** CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
**SUBJECT:** ANNUAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2000 – OCTOBER 2001  
and FY 2001 – 2002 WORKPLAN

## RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes. Receive annual report and approve the FY 2001 – 2002 Work Plan for the Human Relations Commission.

## BACKGROUND

The Human Relations Commission was established in August 1963 by the (then) City Board of Directors by Ordinance #4626. In December 1987, the Human Relations Committee became a City commission through Ordinance #6229, which describes the organization of the City and its advisory bodies.

The Human Relations Commission's established ordinance states that "the Board of Directors of the City of Pasadena finds that racial tension and conflict contribute substantially to the creation of juvenile delinquency and adult crime; that prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination against any individual or group because of race, religion, national origin, or cultural background promote tension and conflict, all of which adversely affect the peace and public welfare." The ordinance continues stating that the mission of the Human Relations Commission is "to eliminate such prejudice and intolerance, and thereby promote the public health, welfare and security; and to... achieve better human relations and to provide assistance to private persons and groups in promoting good will and better relations among all people."

(Hereafter, "HRC" and "the Commission" refers to the Human Relations Commission.)

## **COMMISSIONERS:**

The Human Relations Commission consists of 9 members. Eight members are nominated by the 7 Councilmembers and the Mayor, with 1 At Large member recommended by a Councilmember and nominated by the Mayor. Human Relations Commission officers are Nat Nehdar – Mayoral Appointment, as Chair; and Terrie Allen - District 3 as Vice Chair. Other members of the present Commission are Teddy Choi – Mayoral Appointment; Wendelin Donahue – District 4; Jeri L. Mack – District 1; Yuny Parada - District 7; Nancy Sullivan – District 6; and Richard G. Wong – District 2.

There is currently a vacancy for District 5. The term of former Commissioner Diane Burbie of District 2, expired June 30, 2001. Ms. Burbie was replaced by Commissioner Richard Wong. The term for Terrie Allen – District 3, expired on June 30, 2001. Commissioner is serving until she is replaced. The Mayors office and Councilmembers of Districts 3 and 5 have been notified.

## **STAFF**

The Human Relations Commission is housed in the Human Resources Department under Director Karyn Ezell. Sonya R. Amos, Management Analyst, is staff to the Human Relations Commission. Frances Perez, Executive Secretary, provides additional staff support.

## **COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**

The Human Relations Commission held a special planning session on October 2, 2001, prior to their regular meeting, to discuss the Commission's objectives. An active Workplan for the 2000-2001 year was formulated. (A copy of the current Workplan is attached.) Work in this area continues as the Commission focuses on identifying key issues and direction for the Commission, and refining organizational procedures.

During this period, twelve regular meetings were scheduled; nine meetings were held in addition to the annual planning session. There was no quorum for the November 7, 2000, January 9, 2001, and the July 3, 2001 meetings.

## **LIAISON WITH THE PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Officers Bob Hoyt and Rossana McElveen, from the Pasadena Police Department, are liaisons to the Human Relations Commission, and have been assigned to provide information and reports to the HRC regarding hate crimes and incidents as well as Police Department activities during the Commission's regular meetings. The Commission is working to improve communications between the Police Department and the Commission regarding incidents that have been motivated, at least in part, by the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual preference.

## **INTERORGANIZATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

- The Human Relations Commission participates in monthly meetings of HRMAC or the Human Relations Mutual Aid Consortium. HRMAC is a County and City association of organizations, which address intergroup conflicts. The Pasadena Human Relations Commission has been an official member of HRMAC since March 1997. In 2001, HRMAC formed cluster groups. Pasadena is a part of HRMAC Cluster III, which includes Burbank, Glendale and South Pasadena. Commissioner Yuny Parada, is assigned to attend the monthly meeting. Staff to the Commission, Sonya Amos, also attends.
- Chair Nat Nehdar has been actively involved in giving lectures and seminars at local high schools to insure a better understanding of Human Relations tolerance, race issues and how to overcome hate, violence, discrimination, gang activities, drugs, teenage pregnancy, and other important issues dealing with students. The program continues to be very successful. Members of the Pasadena Unified School District Police Officers, accompany Nat Nehdar to the schools to promote respect, understanding and a better relationship between the officers and students.

## **ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

Members of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission participated in local activities in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide in April 2001.

## **HUMAN RELATIONS ESSAY CONTEST**

The Human Relations Commission sponsored the Eighth Annual Human Relations Essay Contest for Pasadena Unified School District area high school students in Spring 2001. The theme of the contest was *"What Can I Do to Improve Human Relations in the Pasadena Area?"*

The committee of organizers for the event were Human Relations Commissioners Nat Nehdar – 2001 Essay Contest Committee Chair, Terrie Allen, and HRC Coordinator, Sonya Amos.

Members of the commission utilized flyers and press releases to publicize the event as well as presentations to all area high schools. A total of 228 essays were received from students of area public and private high schools. The 12 contest judges included members from the commission, local community and businesses, and educational leaders.

First prize of \$500 was awarded to Raffi Barsoumian, 11<sup>th</sup> grader at John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; the second prize of \$250 was awarded to Maria Ramirez, 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; and the third prize of \$125 was awarded to Ani Hakopyan, 9<sup>th</sup> grader at John Marshall Fundamental

Secondary School. Honorable mentions went to Leeana Andino - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Brook Autry – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Sanda Cea – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Jose Macias – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Norman Martin – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Julie Nishikubo – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Crystal Pitman – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Linda Salvatierra – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; Christopher Schofield – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School; and Sara Simmons – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School. Students who received Honorable Mentions, were awarded \$25.00 each. Special Recognition’s were given to Natasha Grant – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Muir High School, and Snezana Radnovic – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School. All entrants received a certificate of appreciation for their participation.

Essay contest winners were presented at the June 4, 2001 City Council Meeting during Ceremonial Matters, and a reception was held immediately following at the Pasadena Police Department in the Assembly Room. The reception was attended by the families and friends of the winners, school officials, contest judges, contributors, commissioners, and city representatives. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners had the opportunity to read their essays to the guests. Booklets containing the three winning essays, ten Honorable Mentions, and two Special Recognition winners were distributed to City Council members, and reception attendees. A performance of “WHEELS”, which depicted a day of diversity at the Department of Motor Vehicles was presented by NCCJ. The performance was sponsored by Commissioner Diane Burbie.

This year Human Relations Commissioners attended the awards ceremonies of all area high schools to recognize the essay contest winners and participants at their respective high schools.

The essay contest was sponsored by the City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission. Financial contributions for the awards were received from Mr. Frank Nigro and CAL FED Bank, the Pasadena Federal Credit Union, and Mr. Teddy Choi. Planning for the Ninth Annual Essay Contest began in August 2001.

### **JUNIOR HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Junior Human Relations Committee is comprised of students from the local high schools in Pasadena, public and private. There are currently 6 members who attend meetings as scheduled. Some members are past essay contest participants. The Junior Human Relations Committee is interested in mentoring programs; dealing with diversity on school campuses; conflict management; combating violence; better education programs; and helping others through community service activities.

Members of the Junior Human Relations Committee also provide support at activities sponsored by the Human Relations Commission, and represent the HRC in City sponsored events. Ms. Reidun Franklin, is a member of the Junior Human Relations Committee, and regularly attends the monthly meetings of the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Wendelin Donahue is the chair of the meetings.

### **HARRY SHELDON AWARDS**

The Harry Sheldon Memorial Award is named in honor of a man whose life and civic accomplishments contributed much to the Pasadena and Altadena communities. Following his passing in 1975, a committee was formed for the purpose of raising funds to establish an appropriate memorial to his name. In 1977, the Harry Sheldon Memorial Award for outstanding achievements in human relations was officially established by resolution of the Board of City Directors (Councilmembers). The Human Relations Committee (Commission) was designated as the administering body for award. According to the resolution, the Harry Sheldon Memorial Award includes the recognition of individuals and neighborhood groups or organizations.

The subcommittee consists of Commissioner Terrie Allen, and Daniel Gueuzubeuyukian. Plans for the 2001 Harry Sheldon Award are currently underway.

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY MONTH**

In recognition of October as Cultural Diversity Month, the Human Relations Commission participated in the following activities:

- The Pasadena Human Relations Commission held the 3rd annual benefit concert titled "PEACE through MUSIC – Ending Hate...Giving Hope...Bringing Joy". The event was held at the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena on October 13, 2001. Among the 1000 guests attending were Assemblymember Carol Liu of the 44<sup>th</sup> District, representatives from the office of Senator Jack Scott, as well as City officials from the Pasadena City Council, and the Pasadena Police Department. The Master of Ceremony was Furnell Chatman, Channel 4 –KNBC News announcer. The evening was filled with entertainment from International Flamenco Artists, "Adam and Laila Del Monte"; "Casey Simpson", teen singing star; the Los Angeles Dance Academy – Korean Folk Dance Group; country western recording star, "Eddie Cunningham"; "Cedric Trenton Berry", International Opera Star; musical artists, Arpi and Suzy Panossian; girls rock band, "Heaven's Burning"; the "L.A. County High School for the Arts Gospel Choir"; nationally known jazz recording artist, "Ron Brown"; "Zanaida Noelle Stewart, vocalist; 9 year old poet, "Yuri Briceno", and "Vatche Mankerian", world renown concert pianist.

This is the third annual benefit concert sponsored by the Human Relations Commission with the purpose of promoting peace and harmony and overcoming hate, prejudice and violence through the universal language of music. This year the

concert was dedicated to the victims of the tragedy of September 11, 2001. The proceeds will benefit programs sponsored by the Human Relations Commission.

### **MODELS OF UNITY**

In August 1997, the Models of Unity Program was presented to and endorsed by the Pasadena City Council. In 1990 the census reflected the diversity of the population of the City of Pasadena. In 1994, Dr. Robert C. Henderson conducted a study at the request of the Diversity and Racism Organizing Committee of the Western Justice Foundation. The study concluded that many Pasadena residents believe that the City, although enriched by a wide variety of racial, ethnic and religious groups, is divided by intergroup conflict.

The Human Relations Commission seeks to develop collaborative relationships with other individuals and organizations that are making positive contributions towards improving human relations in Pasadena. The Commission's recognition and awards programs are designed to bring widespread attention to these constructive efforts that reduce prejudice, intolerance and discrimination. The Models of Unity Program will not create any activities, programs, or groups, but will spotlight other groups and individuals that pursue similar initiatives to eradicate prejudice and discrimination among diverse communities.

The Models of Unity Advisory Committee, which is currently chaired by Diane Burbie, formerly of the Human Relations Commission, consists of 14 members who represent community based organizations, media, educators, the faith community, local businesses, and the Human Relations Commission. Meetings held as scheduled, and are also attended by staff to the Human Relations Commission, Sonya Amos.

### **ISSUE/INFORMATION FORUMS**

- The Human Relations Commission held a Forum on Tolerance on April 11, 2001 at the Jackie Robinson Center. The six-member panel was composed of Mayor Bill Bogaard – City of Pasadena; Chief Bernard Melekian – Pasadena Police Department; Dr. M. Tyrone Cushman – Pastor of Pasadena Church of God; Rabbi Kollin – Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center; Ray Ramirez – Community Non-Violence Resource Center; and Eugene Stevenson – Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. The panel members addressed how the community can take a more proactive role in combating hate, violence, and prejudice. The forum was free of charge, and open to the public.
- The Human Relations Commission endorsed, supported and participated in a Forum – Preventing Youth Violence, which took place on May 29, 2001 at John Muir High School. Youth representatives of PUSD Elementary, Middle and High Schools, Probation departments, and ex-gang members discussed issues of violence that affect them and possible solutions. Panelists were PUSD – Interim Superintendent – Dr. Edgar Seal, and Interim Police Chief – Bill Saltzman; Pasadena Police Lieutenant Darryl Qualls; Altadena Sheriff Captain Ronnie Williams; and the Community Non-Violence Resource Center representative – Ray Ramirez. Topics included school

shootings, gang violence, bullying, and relationships. The program was a collaboration between the Coalition for Zero Violence, the Community Non-Violence Resource Center, Day One, and the Human Relations Commission. It was open to the public, and was free of charge.

- The Human Relations Commission is preparing for their next forum, which will address “Racism”, and is tentatively scheduled for November 2001.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Coordinated with the Pasadena Police Department as representatives from the Pasadena Police Department attend the monthly meetings of the Human Relations Commission to provide reports on hate crimes and incidents in the Pasadena area as well as being involved in the activities of the commission.
- Coordinated the sharing of resources with other city and county human relations commissions by regularly attending meetings of the Human Relations Mutual Aid Consortium (HRMAC), Cluster III, and the Hate Crime Network.
- Assisted the Mayors office in the coordination and planning of the Interfaith Prayer Vigil held in front of City Hall at Centennial Square. The event, which was held on September 13, 2001, was planned to promote peace, harmony, unity and good will after the tragedy of September 11, 2001.
- Continue to provide assistance to the City of Rialto in developing the Human Relations Commission for their city.
- Spoke to students at Cerritos College to promote human relations on the college level.
- Human Relations Commission Chair promoted human relations by speaking at the YWCA “Week Without Violence” opening ceremony held at City Hall.
- To heighten awareness and stimulate research and thought among high school students the Human Relations Commission received 228 entries from area high school students for the Eighth Annual Human Relations Commission Essay Contest. Winners were recognized during a presentation at the June 4, 2001 City Council meeting and a reception held in their honor at the Pasadena Police Department.
- Recruited 4 new members to the Jr. Human Relations Committee from participants of the Essay Contest.
- Recognized graduating members of the Jr. Human Relations Committee at high school Senior Award programs.
- Recognized all 228 participants of essay contest at their local school award ceremonies.

- Held the third annual benefit concert titled “PEACE through MUSIC – Ending Hate... Giving Hope... Bringing Joy”. 1000 guests were in attendance.
- Developed funding sources to supplement the City budget to support Human Relations Commission programs and activities. Received funding from CAL FED, Oaktree Racing Association, Pasadena Federal Credit Union, El Portal Restaurant, Automobile Club of Southern California and proceeds from the benefit concert. Received in-kind contributions from the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena.
- Supported the empowerment of historically under-represented groups in the community by actively participating in the Annual Pasadena Black History Parade and Festival, Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, Latino Parade and the Playhouse District Latino Fest Pasadena for National Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Presented a proclamation to the Martin Luther King Coalition to commend their efforts in promoting their annual essay contest and celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King.
- Participated in the annual Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast held in Los Angeles, California.



**FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Nat Nehdar, Chair  
Human Relations Commission**

**Attachments:**

**Workplan for HRC - FY 2001 - 2002  
Attendance Roster  
Roster of Commissioners**

**CITY OF PASADENA  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
WORKPLAN - 2001 - 2002 (DRAFT)**

GOALS	COMMISSIONER(S) (Responsibility)	TIME FRAME	PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ OUTCOMES
<p>1. To coordinate with the Pasadena Police Department.</p>	<p>Commissioners Choi, Mack and Sullivan</p>	<p>On-Going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have representatives from the Police Department who are involved, interested, and participate on a regular basis.</li> <li>• Continue meetings with Pasadena Police Department and Schools.</li> <li>• Coordinate outreach program with Police Department when incidents of Hate arise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers Bob Hoyt and Rossana McElveen are assigned to the HRC.</li> <li>• Officers attend monthly HRC meetings and report on activities and issues.</li> </ul>
<p>2. To coordinate the sharing of resources with other city, and county human relations commissions as part of the Mutual Assistance Plan.</p>	<p>Commissioners Sullivan, Parada, Wong, and staff.</p>	<p>On-Going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Pasadena has been a member of HRMAC since March 1997.</li> <li>• Staff and Commissioners attend regular HRMAC and Cluster III Meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff participated in LACCHR's County Wide Training Conference - October 11, 2001.</li> </ul>

GOALS	COMMISSIONERS(S) (Responsibility)	TIME FRAME	PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ OUTCOMES
<p>3. To heighten awareness and stimulate research and thought among high school students - ESSAY CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.</p>	<p>Committee: Commissioners Teddy Choi, Wendelin Donahue, and Yuny Parada.</p>	<p>April 2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Essay Contest to local public and private high schools.</li> <li>Present winners at City Council Meeting with a reception immediately following.</li> <li>Awards will be: 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$250, 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$125, and 10 Honorable mentions @ \$25 each.</li> </ul>	
<p>4. To support and maintain the Junior Human Relations Committee.</p>	<p>Commissioner Wendie Donahue – Chair of committee. Commissioners Choi, Mack, Parada, and Jr. HRC Advisory Representative, Reidun Franklin with input from HRC Chair Nehdar.</p>	<p>On-Going (monthly meetings)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit new members from Pasadena area High Schools.</li> <li>Establish programs to support the Human Relations Commission.</li> </ul>	
<p>5. To recognize individual(s), neighborhood groups, and City Staff who have improved human relations in the city of Pasadena during Cultural Diversity Month - Awards Ceremony/Presentation.</p>	<p>Commissioner Nat Nehdar and Committee Members, Daniel Gueuzubeuyukian, and all Commissioners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 2002</li> <li>October 2002</li> <li>September - October 2002</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harry Sheldon Award</li> <li>Benefit Concert – Peace Through Music.</li> <li>PDA – Latino Fest</li> <li>Latino Parade</li> </ul>	

GOALS	COMMISSIONER(S) (Responsibility)	TIME FRAME	PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ OUTCOMES
<p>6. To improve the profile of the Human Relations Commission within the City of Pasadena. (Outreach)</p>	<p>Commissioners Choi, Mack, Parada, and Wong. Committee Member – Daniel Gueuzubeuyukian.  (All commissioners are requested to assist)</p>	<p>On-Going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to update mailing lists for better distribution of information.</li> <li>• Distribution in languages other than English.</li> <li>• Network w/CBO's and other organizations.</li> <li>• PDA Latino Fest</li> <li>• Latino Parade</li> <li>• Black History Parade and Celebration</li> <li>• Seminars to schools.</li> <li>• Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast.</li> <li>• Day of Remembrance (Armenian/all Genocide – April 2002 – work with Armenian National Committee)</li> </ul>	
<p>7. To participate in the Week Without Violence with the YWCA during Cultural Diversity Month.</p>	<p>Commissioners Choi, Donahue and Nehdar.</p>	<p>October 2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold Program that involves Jr. HRC members.</li> <li>• Benefit Concert – Peace through Music.</li> </ul>	

GOALS	COMMISSIONER(S) (Responsibility)	TIME FRAME	PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ OUTCOMES
8. To present a public forum on issues that affect Human Relations in Pasadena.	Commissioners Donahue, Mack, Nehdar, Sullivan, and Parada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 2001</li> <li>• Spring 2002</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Forum</li> </ul>	
9. To regularly identify, celebrate and provide opportunities to support activities, programs and/or groups of people which foster cooperation, understanding and friendship among diverse groups within the City.	Commissioners Nehdar, and subcommittee members.	On-Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Models of Unity Program</li> </ul>	
10. To develop funding sources to supplement City Budget to support HRC Programs and activities.	All Human Relations Commission members.	On-Going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update Funding List</li> <li>• Develop Funding letter</li> <li>• Develop a Funding Packet.</li> </ul>	Supporters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oaktree</li> <li>• AAAA</li> <li>• CAL FED</li> <li>• Pasadena Federal Credit Union</li> <li>• El Portal Restaurant</li> <li>• Private donations</li> </ul>
11. To continue to support the empowerment of various groups in the community that have been historically under represented.	Commissioner Richard Wong will Chair with all HRC members.	On-Going	New Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chinese New Year</li> <li>• Pacific Asia Museum</li> </ul>	

