

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, February 24, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Alexander Hughes Community Center, Santa Fe Room
1700 Danbury Road, Claremont, California

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Barnes-Slater called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Member Crayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: ANDREWS, BARNES-SLATER,
CRAYTON, KOHLS, MASON, ROBERT

ABSENT

COMMITTEE MEMBER: MYERS

ALSO PRESENT

Michelle Castillo, Management Analyst

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee welcomed its new members, and each member provided a brief introduction of themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

There were no requests to speak.

1. Committee on Human Relations Special Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2024
Approved and filed the Committee on Human Relations special meeting minutes of May 20, 2024.

Committee Member Kohls moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Crayton, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: *Committee Member – Andrews, Barnes-Slater, Crayton, Kohls, Mason, Robert*
NOES: *Committee Member – None*
ABSENT: *Committee Member – Myers*

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. REVIEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Management Analyst Michelle Castillo gave a report on the proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures, which included reducing the number of Committee Members from nine to seven, removing the rule that said Members could only serve two terms on the Committee before they had to come off the Committee for at least a year, removing the member of the Police Commission from the Committee and reflecting the name change for the Recreation and Human Services Department. Ms. Castillo also reviewed the Committee's meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025 and the first two meetings in 2026, asked for the Committee's input on keeping its meetings on Monday nights, and presented the idea of moving the Committee's meeting time from 7:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

Chair Barnes-Slater stated that the Committee's meetings were previously held at 7:00 PM to accommodate previous members' childcare schedules, but she was flexible and would agree to move the Committee's meetings to 6:30 PM. Committee Member Crayton also agreed to move the meeting time to 6:30 PM and stated that Monday nights were a good night to hold the Committee's meetings. Member Kohls stated meetings on Monday nights at 6:30 PM worked well for her, and clarified the typical meeting duration.

Member Kohls also asked if there was any benefit to having nine members vs. seven members. Chair Barnes-Slaters and Member Crayton both stated that having more voices is best, but the Committee has had challenges with attracting new members and getting a quorum for meetings, so they both thought having seven members was best.

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

The Committee received and filed the report.

3. DISCUSS FUTURE COMMITTEE PRIORITY PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Management Analyst Michelle Castillo gave a brief history of the Committee and explained that the current Committee was formed in 2021. Chair Barnes-Slater stated that when the current Committee first formed, it was still under COVID restrictions, so the Committee held a series of training sessions with the LA Commission on Human Relations over Zoom. The trainings focused on conflict resolution, de-escalating situations, and conflicts with neighbors. After that, Committee Members noticed a need for teaching community members to have

conversations with each other when they have different opinions and points of view. They held three different workshops titled "Let's Talk Civilly", where attendees were taught how to disagree respectfully. The first two workshops had 25 attendees, while the last one had only 14 attendees. Ms. Castillo also shared that in the past, the Committee had also participated in United Against Hate Week by sponsoring a poster contest in partnership with the Public Art Committee. The contest had limited participation.

Ms. Castillo suggested appointing an ad hoc committee to brainstorm ideas for future events. Chair Barnes-Slater said that having an ad hoc committee brainstorm ideas and present them to the Committee worked well in the past, and asked for Committee Members who were interested in serving on a new ad hoc committee. Committee Members Kohls, Mason, and Robert volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

The report was received and filed.

REPORTS

Staff

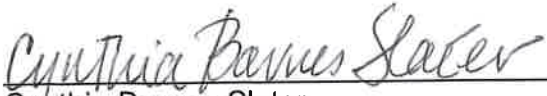
Management Analyst Michelle Castillo shared that the City will be hosting an emergency preparedness workshop and that a flyer with additional information is available at the door. The Making Change Contest awards ceremony was held this evening. The Special Needs St. Patrick's Day dance will be held on March 7, 2025.

Committee

None to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barnes Slater adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM. The next meeting of the Committee on Human Relations will be on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Alexander Hughes Community Center.


Cynthia Barnes-Slater
Chair

ATTEST:


Michelle Castillo
Recording Secretary