

# City of Eugene Human Rights Commission



## MINUTES

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

5:30pm – 7:30pm Meeting

Atrium Building, Sloat Room, 99 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene

### **Present:**

**Human Rights Commissioners:** Joel Iboa (Chair), Ibrahim Coulibaly (Vice Chair), Julia Johnson, Aimee Walsh, Aria Seligmann, Ibrahim Hamide, Bonnie Souza, Councilor Emily Semple

**Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Staff:** Jennifer Van Der Haeghen, Elena Domingo

J. Iboa – I hope everyone had a good holiday season. There is a lot of work ahead of us this year, so let's dive right in. Have people had a chance to look at the minutes. Let's chat about the agenda. We anticipated a lot of folks making public comment tonight, but it doesn't look like there are that many so the agenda will remain the same except Lieutenant Mozan and Chief Carmichael will not be here today. Those 2 agenda items will get bumped to the next meeting. Everything will remain the same.

Motion: Move to approve the January 2019 agenda as amend

Made by: J. Johnson

Second: A. Walsh

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Move to approve the January 2019 agenda.

Made by: A. Walsh

Second: A. Seligmann

Vote: J. Johnson abstain because she was not in attendance

### 2. Public Comment

Stephan Carson – I am making a statement on behalf of statement of the Eugene Democratic Socialists of America about the killing of Charlie Landeros. Eugene DSA extends condolences to family and friends who was gunned down by Eugene police in front of their daughter at Cascade Middle School Friday morning. He touched many lives in the Eugene area and his absence will be missed in our community. Misinformation spread quickly and it was initially identified as a school shooting but we learned only police made shots. The details of Charlie's killing are still unclear why were police called to the school and why did they use lethal force. Any and all footage of the incident must be released to the public. Numerous cover-ups show we cannot trust police to investigate their own officers. Independent investigation is needed. People of color make up 52 percent of those killed by police and elsewhere in the world there are fewer killings. This is an ongoing national tragedy that has visited us in Eugene. We are experiencing grief and rage because of unjust killing, we must stop this. We demand accountability for the officers that killed

Charlie and municipal leaders who created the policies that lead to this tragedy. In solidarity, Eugene DSA.

Adam Kiskal – I live in South Eugene. I am here to express concerns over police actions surrounding shooting over beloved activist Charlie Landeros. EPD has released limited vague info after Charlie's death. They provided that there was a custody dispute that during a police escort a struggle ensued, a weapon was produced, and Charlie was shot and died soon after. Police are careful with their language. I am unclear what producing means, did he pull it out or just make them aware that he was armed. EPD hasn't provided video evidence or a timeline of events. We cannot trust their word without corroborating evidence. We are told that they can't provide info because info is being investigated by state. They released statements early to sway public opinion in their favor. What we got was a predictable response to vague information. Rumors are flying. He has been described as a school shooter, psychotic, dangerous – completely counter to Charlie's friends experience. Support the independent non police or district attorney investigation. Demand evidence now not later.

Majeska Seesegreen – I don't know if Silver is coming tonight, he is on the police commission, Joel is the liaison. I wanted to make members aware that the Police Commission is taking a few months to look at issues of homelessness related to the Police Department. They'll be looking at police practices related to towing and impoundment of vehicles that people live in. I'm not sure how the discussion will be framed. HRC has a homelessness work group. I want to say that the Police Commission has gone through two different series of reviewing the policies related to homelessness. There's very little in terms of how it gets to the problems we know are out there. It's long past time that our ordinances need to be updated in a number of ways. Police Commission looks at EPD policies but can make recommendations to Council. HRC can do that too. We need a lot more studying of the policies and grassroots and commissioners taking a good look to see what needs to be adjusted, changed, or replaced. I'm asking you for more coordination on this. It's an opportunity to make some headway on ordinance changes.

Rita Ludwig – I moved here 5 or 6 years ago for grad school, I'm currently doctoral student. I'm here to express concern for what happened at Cascade Middle School on Friday. Eugene is such a neighborly and friendly community. I'm devastated by the loss of a beloved community member, parent, and activist who worked to support neighbors and if we believe in Eugene as a place to support each other then we shouldn't live in a place where police feel they can take the lives of people experiencing a crisis. We had a loss to our community and it should be looked into how this happened. The impression that is being left is unfortunate for someone who did a lot to make Eugene a community.

J. Iboa – I'd like to take the opportunity to thank those who came to talk about this particular issue. I want to let the HRC know that Ibrahim, Bonnie and I met with Chief Skinner and community members to discuss what happened to Charlie. It's our responsibility as the HRC to draft a statement to the public. We were handpicked by council to provide guidance and suggestions about how to make our city a more welcoming place and to address human rights. I've prepared a draft of a proposed statement. Do commissioners want to have a conversation about what to expect next with the Interagency Deadly Force Investigation?

A. Seligmann - Thank you for doing this. We as a commission need to call for full transparency including release of video and body cams so that everyone can see what happened and understand why someone in police custody was killed instead of subdued. Why was this person killed? The public has an absolute right to know and to see what happened.

J. Iboa – I'd like to invite Chief Skinner to the table to explain the process.  
Chief Skinner: Good evening, I have been here for 9 months and believe I've met most of you. It's with a heavy heart that our community is going through this tragic event resulting from what occurred between

Charlie and our Police Officers. I don't disagree that in a vacuum of information the narrative gets filled in by variety of sources. I want the commission to know that at every turn I have pushed for the release of information in the sense that it wouldn't compromise the investigation from the Lane County District Attorney's Office where the investigation is being conducted. I'll talk about the process so that you will have a better understanding of what happens from here. In every county in the state SB 111 legislation mandated that each county come up with deadly force protocol. First we build a team of criminal investigators, experts, when deadly force is used. A homicide investigation is conducted. In this case, a team of investigators in Lane County and Oregon State Police is put together. From the minute that team is called in to take over the investigation it is immediately placed under the authority of the District Attorney's Office in the county. At this point EPD has a minimal role. Oregon State Police establishes a lead detective on the investigation and makes assignments to gather evidence, review statements and video. We are marching down a path of doing the investigation to seek the truth of what happened that day regardless of what the truth tells us. The challenge that EPD has is that we have very little influence on the process which is intentional so there is no bias as a result of EPD employees involvement. LCDA has the investigation and I, much like you, sit and wait for that process to happen and learn all of the details. I will know some of the details before the general public. We as a profession need to be transparent, objective, and impartial. Information should be revealed that doesn't compromise the investigation and is of interests to the general public. That is not happening right now and it is out my control. I continue to ask for the release of information and am denied. I don't agree with the decision, but have to respect the decision and hope this investigation will wrap up quickly, hopefully by the end of the week. Once the investigation is completed it is delivered to the District Attorney for her evaluation and review. She has made a commitment in the past to make her findings known within 2 weeks and communicated that to the public based on the evidence that was found. That is the only timeline I have now, and it is a loose timeline. That is my best guess on how quickly we will see something. This is all based on the law we are governed by with respect to deadly force encounters with police. This is a criminal investigation and then there will be an Internal Affairs investigation to review policies and procedures in order to see what may have been violated the Police Auditor will be involved in this process. There is some level of public engagement and outside involvement with respect to Internal Affairs investigation. The only mechanism for a criminal investigation is to have criminal investigators conduct it. I'm happy to answer questions that I can, and there may be questions I can't answer. It's important to have the public understand what happened that day but also important to preserve the integrity of the investigation. This is a delicate balance.

B. Souza - There is public records law as it relates to body cam footage in particular. In cases of public interest, there should be camera footage available. What would keep us from seeing that? Would we have to wait until after the DA's decision?

Chief Skinner - There is public records law about what's to be produced by public officials in the course of their duty. But the exemption is that it's not releasable in a current criminal investigation. Evidence is generally not released before an investigation is completed. The DA has the only authority to release that info.

B. Souza - I don't know how EPD policy ended up, but early on for body cams I remember seeing that body cam footage would be available to police officers before they were interviewed, but not to the public. Would that video footage be available to officers involved in the shooting before their interviews?

Chief Skinner: I don't know the answer regarding the chronology of how video is reviewed. I can find out if officers review video before interviews.

S. Markstrom - Who is involved in the investigation?

Chief Skinner - Everyone involved in investigation is a criminal investigator.

S. Markstrom - It makes sense, but the part that might be a challenge is that that doesn't inherently breed trust in the public because the perception is that officers are in a brotherhood situation. Intersecting with the activist community there will be a problem with trust. Is there anything that can be done in addition to that isn't state mandated, but is possible.

Chief Skinner - It begs the question of whether or not what we're doing today is contemporary for our times. The Senate Bill was written in 2007. I don't know if the Senate Bill creates a framework for people external to the departments to participate or if it states particular people to be involved. Right now only people with Law Enforcement Certification would be involved. As with any investigation, if there is a need to go to trial with something, they will need to testify why they were qualified to do the job.

J. Iboa – I'd like to provide context about SB 111. It was introduced by African American Senator and she worked for 6 years to get this passed. The reason was to have a more transparent and independent investigative process when it comes to the use of deadly force. With a goal to take the investigation out of the local jurisdiction to be more unbiased.

Chief Skinner - When you look at the deadly force protocol, the piece that is relevant and deserves a reworking is the communication piece. What mechanism do we have to communicate with the community? There's no reason why decision makers couldn't at least communicate to public where we're at in the investigation. Unfortunately, that information isn't getting out. There's an opportunity to revisit this deadly force policy and to make it more contemporary for 21<sup>st</sup> century policing.

A. Seligmann: How many officers are currently on leave because of this?

Chief Skinner - 2 officers are on admin leave, that doesn't mean that there are 2 officers that either shot or didn't shoot. More about who is involved in the incident vs. who actually used force. We have had people on admin leave after seeing horrific car crashes and a variety of other traumatic events they see in the line of duty.

I. Hamide: Is the Police Auditor the only civilian or non-law enforcement person that is involved in this investigation?

Chief Skinner - The Police Auditor is not involved in the criminal investigation. The Auditors role will come in once the criminal investigation is done and they will have opportunity to review the entire investigation.

I. Hamide: What other authorities do they have?

Chief Skinner: They will have the findings from criminal investigation. The Police Auditor will have the ability to determine whether or not there were policies or procedures violated through this. Everything from the way we responded initially through the tragic events that unfolded. They can review all evidence to render their own decision on whether EPD adhered to its policy. Independent from DA investigation, but they will see everything they see.

B. Souza - How much weight would their opinion carry?

Chief Skinner – The DA will only make a decision about criminal conduct and won't make a finding about policies or procedures. The Auditor will be looking for every nuance through the investigation where EPD didn't follow a policy or procedure that is in place. That is more of the administrative side of it. There are two implications. Criminal conduct with greater implications and other implications are through admin process which are employment and disciplinary process throughout the organization.

A. Seligmann: If the DA decides not to prosecute, could you still fire the officer involved?

Chief Skinner: Yes, if policies and procedures were violated, I could take employment action even if DA decided not to prosecute.

S. Markstrom: What if DA is not going to release the body cam footage?

Chief Skinner: I'm going to release the body cam footage. Once the DA makes a final decision. My intention is for this community to see the body cam footage.

Councilor Semple: Thank you for coming to this meeting. I find it reassuring and want to tell everyone that Chief Skinner has been very good about frequent updates. Even if nothing can be said he has explained the process. This is a tragedy for everyone on all the sides. We try to stay calm and realize that we don't have the information yet. I support a full transparent look at this, but I want to caution that we not jump to conclusions but keep love and openness to what the truth is. We just don't have the information right now. It's a heartfelt tragedy for everyone and its important to be a community, come together, support each other and remember that assumptions can be dangerous. Thank you for listening and thank you to the Chief for being here.

Chief Skinner: This is a moment of tragedy and emotion. Since I've been here I've tried to be vulnerable and build a Police Department that this community can trust and I recognize that at this moment that is fractured right now. I have the opportunity to come and share as much info and be available as possible. Regardless of what the facts are, the truth is what we seek. If we do a good job of gathering facts, we will all be able to understand what happened that day and that's important for all sides.

J. Iboa: Let's read the statement and see if anyone wants to add or have red flags. I knew Charlie and had the chance to work with him. He had a great smile, spoke softly, and had a big heart. A lot of folks miss him.

Charlie was a father, veteran, and respected member of our community. Charlie Landeros leaves behind their daughters, brother, parents, partner, and many family and friends. The role of the Human Rights Commission is to promote implementation of universal human rights values and principles in the City of Eugene. We will act in this role by asking for full transparency in the investigation.

B. Souza: Let's add that information should be shared as soon as possible.

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen: It might be useful to add in a few sentences about the current process and link to some more information on it.

J. Iboa : I would like to send a release to the media.

B. Souza: I'd also ask for Joel to email it to us.

J. Iboa: I can give folks a small window to respond to edits. Want the public to know that HRC is paying attention to this and continue to try to make sure Eugene is a safe place for everyone to live.

Motion: I move that the HRC makes this statement with edits to include info about IDFIT and that the info be shared as soon as possible.

Made by: Councilor Semple

Second: A. Walsh

Vote: Unanimous

### **Support Request**

Anne Milhollen: This is a repeat of a request from your last meeting. We're hoping to host a summer film on homelessness outdoors and show the Under the Bridge film. We would like to do a double feature and are hoping to get local Eugene homeless community footage for that feature. The request was for \$300 for staff to show the film and we went to recreation and asked if that could be set aside given that we are all Eugene entities and the answer was no because it's evening staff time. I'm here to ask again if we can have \$300 for Recreation to show the summer movie.

A. Seligmann: I am willing to sponsor this.

Motion: Move to approve the request.

Motion made by: A. Walsh

Second: A. Seligmann

Vote: Unanimous

### **Point in Time Count – Womenspace report**

Julie Wiseman (Womenspace)- I'm the Executive Director of Womenspace I've been there for just under 2 years. Thank you for having me. I want to thank you for the work you all do. I have admired you from afar and appreciate what you have done. Thank you for your time, passion, and energy. I'm here to talk about the County's Point in Time Count that Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires. There were a few issues that Womenspace found out about. The number of women counted was very low. Our county chose not to ask a domestic violence question. We have a tendency as a community to talk about homeless people as a homeless person and don't differentiate between men and women when there are critical differences and needs.

Prior to 2018 our national coalition partners worked with HUD to form a consortium to do technical assistance to identify a link between domestic violence and homelessness. We were able to get HUD to prioritize a question about homelessness as it's related to domestic violence. We are excited to have more of a definitive number based on the responses to the answer to this question. We were alarmed when the County made the decision not to ask the question and we have since rectified this with the county and we have the domestic violence question on for this year. We've also helped with a training plan to know when and when not to ask the question for safety purposes.

The other part of the PIT count is how low the number was. 1642 folks were found during the PIT count and of the number, 464 adult women were found. That number was outrageously low and we were surprised and alarmed. Community members didn't seem to be surprised and I decided it was important to know how many homeless women we have in our community. We know there are plenty of women hiding and invisible because that is the only way to be safe. We reached out to the University of Oregon consulting group to produce methodology and statistics. We identified that by talking to community partners we could find averages, etc. Based on that information, 964 homeless women should have been counted that were not. There should have been 500 additional women counted and that is a conservative number. The importance of these numbers can't be overstated. We have to go for grant funding and everyone knows that HUD numbers are way too low, but they are reported and used and it's important that these numbers are accurate. They decided to find out how many women were unstably housed and found an additional 1600 women. 35-40% are homeless due to domestic violence.

One of the priorities we did start talking about is shelter. We don't have access to a lot of housing money and it's hard for folks to use vouchers. We served 2800 unduplicated women, children, and men last year. When HUD reported about cities and counties that used domestic violence questions 49,000 checked the box. Veterans represented 39,000. There are plenty of veterans services but not for those fleeing domestic violence. We need to start addressing the fact that we don't talk about women who are homeless. We started to reach out to community partners. In our community we talk about the homeless

population as a single entity and as though their needs are the same. There has to be an agency addressing women's needs, but it doesn't seem there is. The TAC study talked about the same thing. They recommended a mixed gender shelter. They put all of the men in women in one camp together at Camp 99. Women were trafficked and sexually exploited. Suggesting a mixed gender shelter is alarming because the safety of women is not being discussed. I'm appealing to the HRC asking that you talk about women's rights and homeless women. No one is speaking for them and their safety as we address a homeless problem. I don't know what to do about it but we need your expertise and something has to be done. We have to address domestic and sexual violence on streets and in homes. The bottom line is women and children's safety should be at the forefront of our work in order to move the needle. Women need to have a safe place to sleep without being assaulted. Just walk over to Community Court and they attorneys who represent women will share the horror stories they have heard. If we stop talking about this, women are going to disappear. And we can't disappear them. We have to provide them with safe places to sleep.

I. Hamide: Who are you advocating that to?

Julie Weismann - We don't provide mental health services and I don't know what to do for the homeless population in the city. No one is speaking on their behalf.

A. Seligmann - At a Homelessness Work Group meeting Downtown we had women show up saying hey what about us and one woman in particular said that she was at the mission and her abusive ex-partner was also there. She couldn't have a cell phone because her ex-partner kept track of her cell phone and as a result it was hard for her to be in touch with other people. I agree that this is something that has been overlooked. Egan has a women's only shelter that helps, but we need more.

Councilor Semple: This is incredibly important information and you are so right that a homeless person is basically described as a single male and the women and children are hiding and those you can see get the reputation for the whole group. We can't change it until we know about it, it's great to spread this word and advocate and get it to all the other agencies and advocates and to council, county, PHB, and sub-groups working on homeless issues. Some of these groups may be more aware than others and I'm not sure how to get the energy to do this because you're just one person. PIT is coming up so soon and I wish we had a huge team that included unhoused people because they could find other unhoused people easier. I'm concerned that this is overlooked. I'm glad the question is now on there. Contact the Weekly and Register Guard, KLCC, they may want to do a story. Totally under the commission's area to get this information out there.

A. Walsh: The purpose of inviting Julie is as board member of Womenspace this was shared with me. We are disadvantaged by the lack of data because funding is so tied to the numbers. We're working with the youth advisory council and incentivizing them to participate and engage youth in filling this out. We're seeing an increase in trafficking of our young people out of community to other places. Surprised that here is this incredible risk to women on the streets that we don't hear about or have data about. I'm paying staff to participate in PIT because this is so important. We absolutely need people of color to participate in this, so that people of color will be more likely to respond.

Julie: It would be great if the homeless network could assist. There are 2 very large women's camps and we are trying to find some homeless women we could pay to assist us so they're incentivized to participate. We're building Ziploc bags with tampons and hat and soap to be handed out to women to incentivize them to be counted. There are number of flaws in PIT count. People can choose not to participate.

S. Markstrom: How often do they do this?

Julie Weismann: Every year. This year on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

S. Markstrom: Homeless individuals can encourage others to be counted. Outreach to the media for volunteers and donations for gift cards.

I. Hamide: The system is flawed but they haven't found a way to fix it?

Julie Weismann: The County makes the decision on how to do a PIT count. They want to have unduplicated counts and make sure people are homeless. But HUD allows for an observational county. This year, the process is fixed but hoping to work with the county to encourage them to do this differently. All the numbers we have should be seriously inflated. We know it's a flawed system.

J. Iboa: Any more questions? No more questions, thank you for coming. I'm in awe of the work Womenspace has done over the years. You have long been a trusted NGO in our community. Please don't hesitate to contact us, were interested in learning more about this. Do you have any idea how many of these women are trans women or women of color?

Julie: We weren't able to do an analysis with the students, just an aggregate. The county has some numbers. 70,000 trans women out of the 220,000 national average. Women of color was around half. The demographics nationally are 22% Latinx and 6% African American 4% native and American Indian. Only 32% white.

J. Iboa: Folks at the table may be able to help try and move the County in the right direction once that conversation comes back up.

### **WORKGOUUP LEAD UPDATES**

A. Seligmann - The Homelessness Work Group has been meeting on Saturday mornings which is not ideal for the schedule they would prefer. I have been trying to find a commissioner available and Serena has agreed to convene the workgroup on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in the Sloat Room. Serena and I co-chaired the meeting this past Saturday as part of a transition. Anne shared about the film showings. Continuing to work on shelters and a day shelter downtown that would have showers, laundry, and supportive services. Very much needed in our community. Last night at the City Council meeting people were advocating for an anti-panhandling ordinance because it would go against freedom of speech and expression. I would ask that the HRC oppose the anti-panhandling ordinance because while it may be seen as annoying or a nuisance, we need to show compassion to people who are poor. Maybe we can discuss this tonight.

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen: I believe that Council asked for language to be brought back to them that they can consider.

Councilor Semple: The Council asked for a public hearing to be scheduled. I voted for the public hearing, I did not say I would vote for such a thing, but think it's important for people to talk about it.

J. Iboa – Can you share the timeline?

Councilor Semple: I do not know yet.

A. Seligmann - Would it happen before our next meeting?

Councilor Semple: It could happen on February 19<sup>th</sup>. It's being discussed as a safety issue – between standing cars and pedestrians. It will be come at as a safety issue. The idea is to limit the ability for a

physical exchange out of a car. It would mean that fill the boot might not happen with the firefighters. We did get the language of Springfield's ordinance.

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen: I would urge you to make a broad enough motion about the topic but not tie it to specific phrasing because there you won't have a chance to revisit this before your next meeting.

J. Iboa - Can we go through other workgroup updates and come back to this?

B. Souza - WeCU work group met this past Saturday this was the first time meeting since the International Human Rights Day event. We were deliberate with the budget and getting everyone paid. The Human Rights Office approved additional money but we barely needed to touch it. Aimee will finish that and get it to the city. Talked about creation of sub-committees to move forward recommendations from the Marginalized Voices Report. Created a liaison and multicultural center subcommittee that will bring back recommendation to the full group at the end of the month. One of the prioritized recommendations is regarding rapid response for city leaders in the case of hate crimes and incidents. Ibrahim Hamide agreed to be point person to funnel ideas to him about rapid response that the city should consider when putting together protocol. Talked about scope of WeCU workgroup, and Kris Galago will develop first draft of mission statement to clarify what our mission is. Some WECU members are planning to march using the banner we have.

J. Iboa - Let's go back. What do folks think? We can do something now and go on behalf of commission to read a statement.

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen - Maybe you could propose a motion that would allow Joel to work with Aria to take a stance. That would mean people could weigh in now and they could use that information as they put together thoughts and statements.

J. Iboa - Does anyone have serious concerns?

B. Souza – Jen, do you have suggested wording?

A. Seligmann – For now I think we leave it broad until we hear more about the proposed language.

Motion: I move that we speak against an ordinance that would limit a freedom of speech including asking for money from passersby for people experience poverty.

Councilor Semple: I have a friendly amendment because you don't have to be experiencing poverty to be asking for money.

B. Souza - The ACLU has worked on this in the past and I'm interested in looking into what that stance was and what they were proposing. I think that it was in line with what we're talking about.

A. Seligmann - People have expressed dismay about this idea and it is a matter of free speech.

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen: The language may mirror the Springfield policy and I would suggest that you think about looking at the ordinance language and understand how it might be written in a way that might not limit free speech.

A. Seligmann – We should have something about the exchange of resources in there.

J. Iboa - It seems everyone is in agreement that an anti-panhandling ordinance is something that we don't want for our city. Is that enough? Do we have to vote on something or can Aria and I work together?

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen - This is enough because Joel has the right to speak on behalf of the commission.

J. Iboa - We can avoid a motion because there is consensus and chair can speak on behalf of commission.

I. Hamide: If safety can be addressed it should be.

S. Markstrom - This is for the hearing to express HRC's position?

J. Iboa - Yes, once there is a hearing date I am happy to receive input and incorporate it.

A. Seligmann: We can come up with a draft to disperse to the commission.

A. Walsh - Is this a good use of council time? Is there data and incidents of people being hurt? It might be useful for us to communicate to council that this is unnecessary given the lack of data.

Councilor Semple: It's being crafted specifically to mirror Springfield's law.

J. Iboa – I missed the Police Commission meeting last Thursday, I was unable to attend. I will be following up to make sure I get updates I may have missed.

I. Hamide - Housing Policy Board did a one-time change of their meeting date and I could not attend.

A. Walsh – I brought a copy of the Housing Tools and Strategies Working Group recommendations. I will also email these to the group. I was able to participate and think that they did a good job of being inclusive and documenting people's thoughts. It's a lengthy report.

J. Iboa - Can someone present to HRC about the housing tools and strategies?

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen – I can look into that.

B. Souza – I'm in my 4<sup>th</sup> year as liaison to CRB and I was approaching burn-out and decided that is not something I'll continue to do but intend to follow through on Charlie Landeros case. Right now Serena is taking on some unhoused issues and was the alternate for me. Is anyone interested in taking on the liaison role? It's important for HRC to have a presence there. I have appreciated and learned a lot in those meetings. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.

S. Marksrom - I could serve as the liaison.

J. Iboa - Is this something you want to do?

S. Markstrom - Yes, I want to do this.

J. Iboa - Who wants to be Serena's alternate?

B. Souza - I can be the alternate.

A. Walsh - So moved.

Motion: Move that Serena will serve as the liaison to the CRB and Bonnie will be the alternate.

Made by: A. Walsh

Second: J. Johnson

Vote: Unanimous

### **Council Update**

Councilor Semple: Yesterday we talked about a Construction Excise Tax and voted to send it to a Public Hearing. When someone builds something they have to pay a tax for anything above \$250,000 as a onetime tax. This proposal is to start at .33, then .5, then 1 percent. The builders would pay the tax and the City would compensate by reducing SDCs for first two years. We wouldn't be gaining money for first two years. The advantage is that the tax money during this time would be going into the affordable housing fund. The City is also proposing to add \$500,000 a year into affordable housing fund. The hope is that this will stimulate low-income housing. I would prefer not to be giving the SDC money back, but people want this to happen and this is a way to get some revenue for affordable housing. The amount raised could range from ½ a million – 3 million. Bend has been quite successful. I haven't seen an email against this. Better Homes Together was supportive.

We heard an update on the Library Levy, they have been fulfilling promises and it has been hugely successful. I questioned how we will pay for it once levy runs out.

Next week the TAC report is coming out. Wednesday we will be having a Rest Stop update. HPB update will happen mid-February and Human Rights update on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. Data collection will be coming to Council in April. Housing is getting a lot of attention, affordable housing is getting a lot of attention. Hard deadline for closing Camp 99 is Thursday from what I've heard and about 20 people are left on the site at this time. Unfortunately, more people are back in the Whitaker. It was mentioned that not everyone is happy that St. Vinnies is the only provider and not everyone willing to go to St Vinnies camp and we're trying to accommodate that. Do you have any questions?

A. Seligmann - Have you heard that St. Vinnies can ban people? Do they have the right to do so when they receive public dollars?

Councilor Semple: LTD gets public dollars and they ban people. I get your point, but it might not go anywhere. There are a lot of attempts to accommodate people who can't go to St. Vinnies. We need to find new Rest Stop areas.

### **Staff Update**

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen - Board and Commission recruitment opens next week and closes March 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be openings on HRC and it would be helpful if you participated in inviting people to apply. MLK day is on Monday, will be brining banner but HRC members will hold it.

J. Iboa - Ibrahim can present the award if I'm not there. A small group chose to present award to based on scoring everyone who applied, chose 2 people Raquel Hecht and Carla Casteneda who works for Centro Latino Americano. Chose those folks to receive Human Rights award this year.

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen - They are excited and will both be there on Monday. Packets have info about freedom fund dinner and black history month dinners. Think about who you want to send. Equity and Human Rights position that Katie vacated is very close to being filled and I will communicate as soon as possible about that new hire. Once the position is filled you can expect the new person to will be reaching out to get to know you all and the work you're passionate about.

We hope to release the Hate and Bias report by March. So far we have 3 reports of hate and bias for the year. If you have questions, I can talk to you or can reach out to Lt. Nat about those cases.

Our office is supporting Equity Panel for Climate Action Plan. There will be a Council update in February of Police, Sustainability, and Human Rights Commissions. This will be a mid-year check-in on work plans. HRC usually uses part of it's budget to support participation in the dinners.

J. Iboa - Do we want to fund both again this year?

B. Souza - A certain number went to one, and a certain number to another. We should do that again. I would like to go to the NAACP dinner.

J. Iboa - Who wants to go to BIG dinner? Ibrahim Coulibaly and possibly Julia Johnson. Let's approve 3 for BIG incase Rick or Ela want to go. Who wants to go to NAACP? Bonnie, Serena, and Joel. Let's approve 3 to each.

Motion: Move to approve sending 3 to each.

Made By: A. Walsh

Second: Bonnie

Vote: Unanimous

B. Souza - I'm interested in a follow up on the Equity Panel, it would be a good thing for us to learn more about.

J. Lleras Van Der Haeghen – I can provide a presentation with process up to this panel and what will happen moving forward.

Motion: Move to adjourn

Made By: A. Walsh

Second: S. Markstrom

Vote: Unanimous