



Human Relations Commission
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, Arizona 85726-7210
(520) 791-4213 (Voice)
(520) 791-2639 (TDD)
(520) 791-4017 (FAX)



May 16, 2013

Honorable Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
and City Council Members
City of Tucson
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, Arizona 85726

Subject: Annual Report for 2012

Dear Mayor Rothschild and City Council Members:

I was asked to complete an annual report for 2012 for the City of Tucson's Human Relations Commission. I was re-elected as Chair of the Commission on August 8, 2012 and am glad to support the HRC and the City by filing this report. Below you will find the highlights listed monthly; however, so much more was accomplished throughout our Tucson community because of the commitment that each of our Commissioners has to the mission of the Human Relations Commission.

JANUARY 2012

- HRC Commissioners participated in planning and also attended the 2012 MLK Interfaith events, the Drum Major Awards luncheon, and the Non-violence Legacy Project event.
- Commissioner involvement with the Southern Arizona Hate Crime Task Force produced a new web presence for the project. Commissioners regularly attended the Task Force meetings and worked towards furthering their mission throughout the greater Tucson community.
- Commissioners continued the conversations regarding immigration and looked at the "Utah Compact" as potential way to build coalition with those interested in working towards a more civil dialogue about immigration in the wake of Arizona's state legislature's passing of SB1070 and the suite of regressive legislation in 2010. Commissioners developed a plan of action to include ongoing connections with the Mesa, AZ group that contacted the HRC for assistance reaching the Mayor and Council. The Commission decided to conduct their own research locally and nationally in order to develop a packet of information to present to Mayor and Council.

FEBRUARY 2012

- HRC was concerned about meeting quorum with two positions to fill on the Commission: Ward 4 and the Mayor's spot.
- With the elimination of the Ethnic Studies classes in TUSD, the Commission decided to write a letter to Pedicone and copy the Mayor and Council in order to make a statement about our role as an advising body if necessary as these debates and conversations were heated and often one-sided with those in power from Phoenix having much more space to speak in the media than those students who were being demonized and pathologized.

MARCH 2012

- The HRC received authorization from Mayor and Council to form a sub-committee to discuss and research the potentials and pitfalls of becoming a non-profit with proper status for raising funds for projects.
- Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Howell drafted a letter to be sent to Superintendent Pedicone regarding the HRC's mission and work to end discrimination within the Tucson community.

APRIL 2012

- The Commissioners' work with the Arizona Accord supported the Mayor and Council towards a unanimous passing of the Arizona Accord in the City of Tucson.
- The City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk from the Tucson City Clerk's Office visited to describe the parameters of "research" for our work to better understand non-profit status and whether or not it would be something beneficial for the HRC and its work in community.

MAY 2012

- The HRC wrote a press release about the City of Tucson's Arizona Accord, which got caught in the "approval pipeline" in the City Clerks' Office. It was never sent.
- The HRC revised its letter intended for Pedicone at TUSD to go to Mayor and Council announcing the HRC's intention to be available for further conversations about the elimination of Ethnic Studies.
- The Rev. Raven Gaston was appointed to represent Ward 4.
- Evan Mendelson from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona presented on the Rosa Parks Scholarship and the work that they do to manage the HRC-established scholarship funds.

JUNE 2012

- The HRC revised the language for the Rosa Parks Scholarship fund in order to reflect the positive acts of human relations focused commissions.

AUGUST 2012

- Officers were elected.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2012

- HRC reviewed all of the HRC by-laws and resolutions to prepare for the annual retreat, which took place at the Habitat for Humanity offices.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2012

- A sub-committee was formed to work on the planning for the Ray Davies Student Service Awards to take place in May 2013.
- Religious leaders within the Tucson community attended the monthly meeting to talk about their work in community to create spaces for immigrant voices and the possibility of Tucson becoming a "Welcoming Immigrant City." The HRC was interested in supporting their work and agreed to attend meetings to learn more.

The Human Relations Commission looks forward to continuing to serve the City of Tucson in the upcoming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie A. Lee
Chair & Commissioner from Ward 3