

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Special Meeting, May 29, 2014

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

President Biggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Vice President Villareal and members Radding, Robles-Wong, and Blake. Absent were members Williams and Watkinson.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 24, 2014, were approved as presented.
M/S Radding / Robles-Wong Unanimous

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

3-A. **WORK SESSION TO DETERMINE STRATEGY AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO INFORMATION RECEIVED AT MEETING OF APRIL 24 REGARDING HOMELESSNESS IN ALAMEDA**

At the regular meeting of April 24, 2014, the Board, in response to concerns of homelessness in Alameda brought to the attention of the Board, discussed whether or not it would be appropriate to conduct an Assessment of Homelessness in Alameda that would result in a status report on the number of homeless in Alameda, current services available and potential gaps in services.

Input was received from members of the APD, Vice Mayor Ezzy-Ashcraft, Liz Varela – BFWWC, Jackie Krause – Mastick Senior Center, Victoria Johnson - AHA Director of Housing and Community Development, and Jane Chisaki – Director of the Alameda Free Library. After receiving input and discussing which actions might be appropriate to respond to these concerns, the Board voted to move forward with developing and conducting a survey of homeless people living on the streets of Alameda, and authorized expenditure not to exceed \$750, to provide resources and referrals to those individuals.

The evening's discussion included the decision that, to determine the actual number of homeless in Alameda, a physical count should be taken. This differs from the County's Homeless Count process, which is a count of individuals currently in shelters, and those receiving other services from agencies serving the homeless. It was decided that early morning would be the best time to conduct the count; engaging individuals as they are waking up and preparing for the day, but not disturbing those who are sleeping. A suggestion was made to leave a "calling card" flyer/pamphlet for these individuals, offering them the opportunity to contact us and receive the resources we are providing others.

It was decided that we should contact APD volunteers, service providers, congregations, and other community volunteers to assist us in conducting the count, and that a meeting that included an orientation and training be scheduled before-hand. The date of the count will be sometime between mid-September and late October. President Biggs will make a presentation on this project at the upcoming Alameda Services Collaborative meeting to help recruit volunteers.

The \$750 that has been allocated for this project will be used to purchase backpacks, socks, underwear, phone cards/ "burner phones", and personal hygiene items. The backpacks will also include referral information to help link these individuals to services. The APD estimates that there are only a dozen or so "long-time homeless Alamedans" living on the streets, but additional backpacks will be purchased, since there is the expectation we may also encounter other homeless individuals. Staff will research the best prices for these items, and make the purchases. We will continue the discussion of this project at our July meeting.

4- **BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

President Biggs requested that the July agenda include a discussion regarding SSHRB recognizing and honoring individuals and organizations for their service to the community.

Member Robles-Wong shared that this year's Asian / Pacific Islander Cultural Event at the South Shore Center was so successful that they may have to find a larger venue next year. Because last year's recognition of API veterans only included men, this year, female API veterans were honored. The event included a variety of entertainment, and added two food-related components that were a big hit. The first was a noodle cook-off, and the other was a noodle-slurping contest.

Vice President Villareal announced that all four Alameda Harvey Milk Day Celebration events were a big success, drawing a total crowd of more than 500.

Staff announced that Jennifer Watkinson will be leaving the Board at the end of June, and Audrey Hyman will be sworn at the June 17, 2014 Council meeting, and join us at the first meeting in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. M/S Robles-Wong\ Villareal UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Franz
Secretary