

APPROVED
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007
8:00 pm

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:00.
2. Roll Call: Present: Duncan, Johns, Maris, Tanang Absent: Larsen, Thomsen, Marks
Staff: Lieberman The Commission's new youth member, Dijnee Tamang, was welcomed, and Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.
3. Approval of minutes. Maris moved to approve the minutes of 9/5/2007. Johns seconded. Minutes were approved 3-0-1 (Tamang abstaining).
4. Opening Public Forum. A. Riffer noted that the agenda, minutes, and materials needed to be made available to the public. Lieberman provided copies. T. Moder noted that the Governor had signed a bill prohibiting smoking in cars with children.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Related to the Following Items
 - 5.1. The order of the agenda was discussed. It was agreed to rearrange the items based on priority. The items were taken in the following order:
 - 5.2. Smoke Free Proposal: Ira Sharenow presented his proposal for a smoke free ordinance in Albany. Steve Edrington from the Rental Housing Assn of Northern Alameda County discussed the multi-family issues and how their members address these issues. Tim Moder (Ala. Cty Tobacco Control Coalition) and Serena Chan (American Lung Assn) also presented their views before the Commission. Commissioners had a variety of questions. Johns wanted to know how many owners of multi-tenant buildings were represented by the RHA, and also questioned how to acknowledge the socio-economic component regarding the propensity of low-income tenants to smoke, and upper income tenants not to smoke. He also asked about the propriety of local government becoming involved in this landlord/tenant situation. Mr. Edrington responded that there was one landlord that he know of that was a member of his organization, and that the intent of the policy was to have clear guidelines for all tenants. Maris asked about the costs of enforcement and the financial impacts. Sharenow responded that this was not normally a police issue, but gave a tenant protection if a smoker moved nearby. Duncan asked if smoking included all substances? Chan responded that cities have dealt with the issue in different ways. She noted that the city of Belmont recently adopted an ordinance and is forming an enforcement committee. Johns asked what the scope of the problem was here in Albany and if there was a need for government to interject itself? Duncan stated that the issue was very complex and would require significant time to consider. The commissioners discussed the next step in the consideration of the smoke free proposal, including the following: Lieberman would see if there were any available materials on the prevalence of smoking in Albany, and if it is a problem in public places or in multi-tenant buildings; publicity

for the SEJC next meeting will try to be more extensive to get additional people to attend and voice their opinions about the proposal. The item was continued to the November meeting.

- 5.3. Campaign Finance Reform: Lieberman reviewed the summary that had been prepared for the Commission. Commissioners discussed the intent of the ordinance. Johns stated that he did not understand how prohibiting contributions from organizations developed a broader base of advocacy. Maris noted that the ordinance may have been passed in 1996 as a reaction to large campaign contributions buying influence, and that this might have been related to the cardroom controversy. Commissioners discussed the issues of the voluntary limits on expenditures and whether that was effective or equitable, the contribution limits, and the prohibition on contributions from any other entity than an individual. C. O’Keefe spoke to the Commission about the issue of enforcement, and asked why there would be an ordinance if the City was not going to enforce it? She asked about the issue of multi-candidate slates pooling resources, and stated that it was unclear what the rules were in these instances. She also mentioned concerns about whether parts of the ordinance were constitutional, and about the issue of donating to organizations that support or oppose an candidate. A. Riffer spoke to the Commission and asked that they attempt to have a recommendation within the next six months in order to have the rules clarified in time for the upcoming election. He also expressed his concerns about enforcement and the need to clarify rules regarding general purpose committees. Lastly, he mentioned that due to the increased use of absentee ballots, the final week filing was not particularly useful as an incentive anymore. The Commissioners discussed the need to gather information regarding concerns of past candidates. Duncan suggested doing qualitative research, such as a letter survey to past candidates to determine what their concerns and opinions were. Commissioners agreed this would be a good idea, and agreed that Thomsen, Duncan and Lieberman would work on preparing a letter/survey.
- 5.4. Affordable Housing subcommittee: Maris noted that 727 San Pablo had met its requirements for Inclusionary Housing. Lieberman noted that 4 units would be provided, 2 at very low income levels, and 2 at low income levels. Lieberman informed the commission that the Planning and Zoning Commission was holding an affordable housing study session on November 27th and that this would be important for the affordable housing subcommittee to attend.
- 5.5. Peace Action Day Event: Maris and Johns discussed the event, and noted that despite low attendance, the event and the program went very well. Maris thanked the student group that assisted. The commissioners discussed how to get more people to attend next year, and the desire to begin the planning process earlier and to involve ALL of the Commissioners. The item will be brought back on the agenda for December.
- 5.6. Campaign Finance Reform, AB583: Lieberman noted that as this was a two year bill, it could be held over to a later meeting. Commissioners agreed to postpone this for several months due to the current heavy Commission agenda.

- 5.7. Living Wage: Commissioners agreed to defer this to a later meeting. Johns said he would review the material from the council meeting and will report back on any suggestions about how the Commission might want to approach this issue.
 - 5.8. Albany Bulb: Lieberman noted that the city had been involved in clean-up of garbage and abandoned camp-sites, but had not removed active camp-sites.
 - 5.9. Waterfront Planning Process: Lieberman noted that the review of the Neuwirth report was now scheduled for the 1st City Council meeting of November.
 - 5.10. City Motto: Commissioners briefly reviewed the submissions to date. The deadline for submissions had passed, but Commissioners agreed to continue to collect them since they have not yet decided on a process for selection. Commissioners discussed various ways to involve the public in the decision-making, and to involve the Albany Historical Society. Commissioners asked what the timing was on the issue, and if there was an event scheduled that should be considered a deadline. Lieberman said that she would provide this information at the next meeting.
6. Announcement/Communications
Lieberman reminded the Commissioners about the Commission training scheduled for October 29, 2007 from 6:30 to 9 pm at City Hall, and strongly encouraged Commissioners to attend.
 7. Future Agenda Items:
 - 7.1. Smoke-Free Proposal
 - 7.2. Albany Campaign Finance Reform Act
 - 7.3. City Motto
 - 7.4. Waterfront process (November, update)
 - 7.5. Albany Bulb (November, Update)
 - 7.6. Council Referral: Living Wage (Johns, update in November/December?)
 - 7.7. Peace Day (bring back in December)
 - 7.8. Affordable Housing (December or January, after P&Z workshop)
 - 7.9. Council Referral: California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, AB583 (January)
 8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:30. The next meeting was scheduled for November 14, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Due to the number of issues on the agenda, a 3 hour meeting is planned, from 7 to 10 pm.