

**FINAL  
MINUTES  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007  
7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Roll Call: Present: Duncan, Maris; Marks; Tanang; Thomesen (arrived 7:25 pm).  
Absent: Johns, Larsen  
Staff: Lieberman
3. Approval of minutes. Marks moved to approve the minutes of 11/14/2007. Tanang seconded. Minutes were approved 3-0.
4. Opening Public Forum. None.
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: Staff presented the materials that were in the packet provided to the Commissioners. These included a very rough draft amendment to the existing ordinance, and a more comprehensive amended ordinance that was drafted by Robin Salsberg, from TALC. There was also an accompanying memorandum from Robin which walked through the changes that she had made to the Albany ordinance, explaining what changes were made to bring the Albany ordinance up to the current State law, and what changes would be new, and beyond the State law requirements.

Commissioners walked through all of these issues in detail. With regard to the new features of an Albany ordinance that were recommended, they recommended the following new additions:

    - a. Adding “minimum of 25 feet” to the definition of “reasonable distance.”
    - b. Adding boarding areas for public transit routes, including bus shelters and bus stops, theatre or restaurant lines.
    - c. Adding “outdoor eating areas” of restaurants, but using the language from the Oakland ordinance that allows outdoor smoking at bars.
    - d. Adds “playgrounds and playground areas of public parks”
    - e. Adds “parks and greenways”
    - f. Adds “public events held in a public place,” and specifically the Solano Stroll.
    - g. Raises from 30% to 80% the percentage of no smoking rooms that must be available at a hotel or motel or at a Bed and Breakfast.

Commissioners raised concerns about including the banning of smoking on Solano and San Pablo Avenues. Some of their concerns had to do with the possibility that patrons of restaurants would walk around the corner to the residential street areas and

smoke in front of people's houses. Commissioners wanted to know what other cities, other than Berkeley, had banned smoking on commercial streets. Commissioners also noted that by banning smoking 25 feet from doorways, most of Solano and San Pablo Avenue would be included in any case.

Significant discussion occurred regarding multi-family housing and whether or not to include common areas, either enclosed or unenclosed in multi-family housing. Thomsen said that she felt common areas in MF housing were more important than banning smoking on commercial streets. Commissioners discussed issues of private yards in single family housing, and the equity issue in terms of lower income residents in multi-family housing. Commissioners directed staff to come back to the January meeting with an ordinance that included all of the agreed upon changes, as well as the changes that are needed to bring the existing Albany ordinance up to State compliance. They wanted to look at the issue of multi-family housing and commercial streets separately.

John Schmidt, the owner of The Pub in Albany stated his opposition to the ban on all of Solano Avenue and the effects it would have on his business. Steve Edrington, Rental Housing Association presented his organization's suggestions for regulation of smoking in multi-family housing facilities.

Jenna L., an Albany resident, and employee of the American Cancer Society, spoke in favor of the ordinance and further regulation of smoking. Ralph Morales, from the American Lung Association, said that the Oakland language might address the concerns of The Pub and other bars.

The item was continued to the January meeting.

- 5.3. Campaign Finance Reform: The final draft of the survey was included in the packet. Commissioners made two minor changes to the survey. One was to add a question asking if the per voter limit (for voluntary contributions) is too high. The second item was to add to the final open-ended question, language that asked if respondents had any suggested proposals for campaign finance reform. Commissioners also directed that the survey be sent in January (not end of December.). Duncan noted that commissioners should also be sent the survey and should fill it out. Maris asked that Commissioners come back with suggestions, and that all should come to the next meeting with ideas and proposals. Lieberman said that she would contact the two Commissioners who were not at the December meeting about this. Duncan suggested calling the League of cities regarding other city ordinances or any model ordinances. Lieberman said that she would do this, and also back out the dates by which a change would need to be in place in order to be in effect for the upcoming November election.
- 5.4. City Motto: Commissioners reviewed all of the selections chosen as the top 10 by the Commissioners. Commissioners agreed that they wanted something unique, not common or trite. Commissioners discussed possible revisions to some of the entries, and selected their top four choices as follows:  
"Urban Village on San Francisco Bay", "Golden Gate View to the Pacific", "A Stroll

by the San Francisco Bay”, “Diversity, Unity, Sustainable Community.” These will be forwarded to City Council.

- 5.5. Living Wage: Johns was not there to discuss this, so it was agreed to move it to the next agenda.
  - 5.6. Bill of Rights Defense Committee/Guantanamo Reading Project: Johns was not there to discuss this, so it was agreed to move it to the next agenda.
  - 5.7. Albany Bulb: Lieberman updated the Commissioners on follow-up activities regarding the clean-up, the presence of encampments, and the oil spill issue.
  - 5.8. Waterfront Planning Process: Duncan updated the Commission about the current status of the planning process.
  - 5.9. University Development on San Pablo. Duncan discussed this development and how best to follow up and keep current on this project.
6. Announcement/Communications

Maris discussed the P&Z workshop that he attended. He noted that the City’s Housing Element will need to be completed in June 2009, including an EIR. He mentioned that he would like one more person on the subcommittee, and said that he would call Larsen or Johns about it. Lieberman noted that the City Council will have a workshop on the housing element on January 7, 2008, and it would be important for SEJC Commissioners to attend.
7. Future Agenda Items:
    - 7.1. Smoke-Free Proposal: Issues related to smoking on San Pablo and Solano; and issues related to multi-family, as well as any other related issues.
    - 7.2. Presentation on Department of Peace
    - 7.3. Albany Campaign Finance Reform Act
    - 7.4. Living Wage: subcommittee report
    - 7.5. Guantanamo Reading Project/ Bill of Rights Defense Committee (Johns)
    - 7.6. Waterfront process (November, update)
    - 7.7. Albany Bulb (November, Update)
    - 7.8. University Development on San Pablo Avenue
    - 7.9. Peace Day (bring back in winter?)
    - 7.10. Affordable Housing (follow up on Jan 7 council workshop)
    - 7.11. Council Referral: California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, AB583
8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:40. The next meeting was scheduled for January 9, 2007 at 7:00 pm.