

**FINAL
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008
8:00 pm**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm.
2. Roll Call: Present: Duncan, Johns, Larsen, Maris; Marks; Thomson
Absent: Tanang
Staff: Lieberman
3. Approval of minutes. Thomsen moved to approve the minutes of 12/12/2007. Johns seconded. Minutes were approved 5-0, with Larsen abstaining.
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. The items were taken in the following order:
 - 5.2. Presentation: Department of Peace Proposal: Supporters of HR808 presented their reasons for support of the Dept. of Peace proposal. Nancy Merritt discussed overall issues of conflict resolution, from international to national to the local level in terms of street violence. She presented the materials in the packet that was provided to all Commission members and to the public. . Stephanie Thomas discussed impacts at the local level in terms of conflict resolution for youth and for school programs. She stressed that support for the Dept. of Peace proposal would be a means of securing funding for local conflict resolution programs. Three other members of the public spoke in favor of HR808 and discussed their personal experiences in dealing with conflict issues, particularly pertaining to youth.

Commissioners asked a variety of questions regarding HR808. Duncan asked how it addressed prison reform, and Ms. Merritt noted that programs related to the criminal justice system were included. Marks noted that the proposed Dept. of Peace was really much broader than just an anti-war proposal and addressed national and local issues. Maris said he would like to add additional language to the resolution regarding international peace issues. Johns asked about ways to recommend local actions that would have direct impact on our community and not get bogged down in linguistic issues. Commissioners agreed to agendaize the resolution supporting the Dept. of Peace for the February meeting. Duncan and Maris would provide any additional language to the "Whereas" clauses for Commission review, and Johns would add information pertaining to local programs.

Smoke Free Proposal: Staff presented the draft based on the results of the December commission meeting and direction provided by Commissioners, and noted the outstanding issues still to be decided. Thomsen said she would like to review the draft. Duncan noted she would like to have State loopholes closed. Marks noted that

she had talked to the owner of the Ivy Room about no smoking on San Pablo and Solano Avenues, and he had expressed concerns because he was on the corner of Solano/San Pablo and smokers would not be able to go around the corner to smoke, as they would at other bar locations. Johns questioned why the Commission was spending so much time on the issue and if that was appropriate. Thomsen and Duncan noted that environment (and by extension health) were part of the SEJC purview. Lieberman noted that if the Commission did not want to continue the issue it could be directed to City Council with the remaining issues left for their consideration. After further discussion, Thomsen made the following motion, seconded by Maris: “*Smoking Regulations are an issues that the Commission wishes to further address.*” Larsen said that he was in favor of sending the current draft up to Council.

Members of the public spoke on the motion: P.Cummings (Am. Cancer Society) spoke in favor of moving the current draft up to Council. I.Sharenow spoke in favor of moving the issue to Council, but not the current draft. J. Schmidt (The Pub) asked to have a balanced proposal. J.Katz spoke in favor of addressing all of the issues, and noted that this was not criminalizing smoking. Public member asked where the fines levied went and if they were used to support smoking cessation services.

The motion was called by Chairwoman Duncan, and passed 5-1.

The Commissioners agreed to agendize the smoking issue for February, as the first item on the Agenda. The four issues remaining to be addressed are:

- Banning smoking on Solano and San Pablo Avenues
- Multi-family housing issues, which include banning smoking in indoor and outdoor common areas; and instituting some kind of program whereby Landlords notify tenants of their smoking policy in the building
 - Should smoking be a nuisance and subject to the procedures defined in the City’s Nuisance Abatement Ordinance (AMC Section 18-1)
- Should smoking be banned on the sidewalks surrounding Albany Schools

Johns suggested that a deadline be set for addressing the issue. The Commission agreed to two more meetings. At the February meeting the Commission would make recommendations regarding the outstanding four issues. At the March meeting a draft ordinance that incorporated all recommendations would be reviewed by the Commissioners before being sent to Council.

- 5.3. Campaign Finance Reform: Lieberman requested that the survey be sent in January, not December, since it was hard for anyone to find time to address surveys in December. Commissioners agreed to this schedule.
- 5.4. Affordable Housing Sub-Committee: Maris updated the Commission on meetings to date. He noted that Dijnee wanted to be involved, but Lieberman noted that unless one other member dropped out this would constitute a quorum. Maris said that they would like to have a policy statement by June.

- 5.5. Living Wage: Johns/Marks to discuss at February meeting.
- 5.6. Bill of Rights Defense Committee/Guantanamo Reading Project: Johns provided materials for the February meeting. He noted that it was a High School program and that he wanted to wait until Dijnee was present to discuss it.
- 5.7. Albany Bulb: Lieberman updated the Commissioners on follow-up activities regarding, including Council Member Wile's activities in conjunction with Albany Berkeley Mental Health District.
- 5.8. Waterfront Planning Process: Maris raised the issue of the City of Half Moon Bay, and the lawsuit that had found against the City regarding development potential of a parcel of property.
- 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
7. Future Agenda Items:
 - 7.1. Smoke-Free Proposal: To be addressed first on agenda.
 - 7.2. Albany Campaign Finance Reform Act: Follow up regarding surveys
 - 7.3. Living Wage: subcommittee report
 - 7.4. Guantanamo Reading Project/ Bill of Rights Defense Committee (Johns)
 - 7.5. Waterfront process (November, update)
 - 7.6. Albany Bulb (November, Update)
 - 7.7. University Development on San Pablo Avenue
 - 7.8. Peace Day (bring back in winter?)
 - 7.9. Council Referral: California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, AB583
8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2008 at 8:00 pm.