CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: August 5, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Julie Kahn, Human Services Outreach Manager

Subject: City Council/Human Relations Commission Liaison Meeting July 10, 2008

Attachments 1. Human Relations Commission Priority Exercise-2008

INTRODUCTION

A liaison meeting of the City Council/Human Relations Commission met on July 10, 2008. Those present were Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Krasne, Human Relations Commission Chairperson Meshkaty and Vice Chairperson Goldsmith, Interim Human Services Administrator Julie Kahn, intern Micaela England and Public Relations Manager Cheryl Burnett.

DISCUSSION

The following is a review of the issues discussed:

Civility Expectations for Beverly Hills Leadership

Following a discussion of the history of the development of the Human Relations Commission's exploration of a model of behavior exemplifying civil discourse, the following direction was provided by the liaisons:

- The scope of such a model be increased to reach the community beyond elected and appointed officials.
- Consideration be given to posting language regarding civil discourse and respect within City Hall.

The matter was returned to the Commission for further study.

Meeting Date: August 5, 2008

Human Relations Commission Priorities

A summary of the Human Relations Commission's "white board" exercise to identify priorities was reviewed (Attached). Mayor Brucker added "neighbor to neighbor" tensions to the priority list. No further comment was made.

Multicultural Festival

The Council liaisons were apprised that a committee was formed at the request of Community Services Director Steve Miller to open a dialogue on options and ideas for future ways to explore and celebrate the City's diversity. The committee members include representatives from the Recreation and Parks and Human Relations commissions and Community Services staff members.

The committee met on July 8, 2008 to review the history of the 2006 and 2008 festivals and begin to raise issues and questions for further exploration. The committee members are charged with returning to their respective commissions to continue the dialogue initiated at the meeting with their full commissions at their next meetings. Feedback from each commission dialogue will be brought back to the multicultural committee to discuss future steps, if any.

Comments from the liaisons included a question whether a future festival was a priority or needed. A brief discussion of an example of an alternative event was ended by direction from the liaisons to bring the matter back after the commissions had met and the committee had met and details had been worked out.

Steve Miller
Approved By

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Liaison - Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Krasne
Chairperson Meshkaty and Vice Chairperson Goldsmith

FROM: Julie Kahn, Interim Human Services Administrator

DATE: July 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Human Relations Commission Priority Exercise - 2008

Human Relations Commission- Priority Issues

Diversity in Beverly Hills

- Community Unity & Social Capital
- Community Demographics
- Celebration and Education
- Programs to bridge the multicultural gap

Homelessness in Beverly Hills

- Panhandling
- Donations

Assistance to the Elderly in Beverly Hills

- Senior Fraud
- Elder Abuse

Bullying in Beverly Hills

- When does *harmless* teasing become *harmful* bullying?
- Bullied children have a higher probability of engaging in **risky behavior** later on.
- Bullying is a sign of **deeper problems** within a child.

Civil Discourse in Beverly Hills

- Although Beverly Hills is proud of its history of citizen activism and involvement, officials need a mechanism to preserve the decorum and civility of meetings.
- Beverly Hills recognizes the value of and encourages debate among its citizens and officials.

Human Relations Mission Statement

The human relations commission shall advise, recommend, assist and encourage activities and programs to be undertaken to promote positive human relations in all aspects of community life in Beverly Hills. The commission shall actively promote a just and equitable multicultural society; and will endeavor to reduce conflict and tension, as well as discrimination, prejudice and stereotyping based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other arbitrary factor.