



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: November 19, 2013
Item Number: F-3
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Mahdi Aluzri, Assistant City Manager
Subject: Proposal By Councilmember Krasne to expand the charge of the Human Relations Commission
Attachments: None

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests direction as to whether the City Council wishes to expand the responsibilities of the Human Relations Commission and extend the terms of two Commissioners.

INTRODUCTION

Councilmember Krasne has requested that the City Council discuss expanding the charge of the Human Relations Commission to include studying and making recommendations concerning socially important issues in the community, including housing. Councilmember Krasne is also requesting that the terms of two Commissioners be extended.

DISCUSSION

Responsibilities of the Commission

The purposes and responsibilities of the Human Relations Commission were established in 2000, when the Commission was formed. They have not been updated since that time. The purposes and responsibilities include:

- A. Promoting the concepts of diversity, tolerance, and acceptance in the community;
- B. Conducting such studies and to hear such issues in any field of human relations in the community as will aid in effectuating the commission's general purpose;
- C. Inquiring into incidents of tension or conflict among or between various racial, religious or nationality groups, and encouraging action by means of conciliation, conference, and/or persuasion to alleviate such tensions and conflict;
- D. Conducting and/or recommending such educational programs as will increase good will throughout the community;

E. Defining, identifying and tracking existing and emerging issues that may benefit from intervention or conflict resolution;

F. Facilitating better communication and interpersonal relations within the city and between the city and members of the community and hearing and receiving oral and written communications, in an appropriate time and manner, from members of the public concerning any topic that relates to the relationships between members of the community or between the city or its staff and members of the community;

G. Receiving citizen complaints, in an appropriate time and manner, concerning the interactions of city employees with the public. The commission shall serve as one alternative to directing complaints to the city department involved in the complaint.

1. The commission or its staff may communicate with complainants and city departments with regard to complaints received by the commission and may also arrange and facilitate communications directly between city departments and complainants;

2. The commission or its staff may inquire about the status of a complaint received by the commission and the progress of the review of a complaint.

Councilmember Krasne has requested that the City Council discuss broadening the responsibilities of the Commission to include studying and making recommendations concerning socially important issues to the community, including housing specifically for the elderly and physically disabled and those who have lived in their units for extended periods.

B. Extending the Term of Two Commissioners

It has also come to Councilmember Krasne's attention that the terms of four commissioners will be expiring within a short time in the near future. If the City Council agrees that the scope of the Commission should be expanded, then Councilmember Krasne has requested that the City Council also extend the term of two commissioners in order to help ensure continuity on the Commission.

The following is a list of the current commissioners and their term expiration dates:

Ilona Sherman	April 9, 2014
Dr. Sharona Nazarian	January 16, 2014
Rochelle Ginsgurg	November 19, 2014
Barbara Linder	January 16, 2014
Thomas Pease	Resigned

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposals to expand the responsibilities of the Human Relations Commission and extend the term of two Commissioners is not anticipated to have any measurable fiscal impact.

Jeff Kolin 
Approved By