

NEIGHBORHOODS & DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES • January 13, 2015 • CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1 10. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Sutton.

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3 20. **Roll Call:**

4 Commission Chair Shirley Sutton

Commissioner Ty Tufono

5 Commission Vice Chair Rosamaría Graziani

Commissioner Berel Paltiel

6 Commissioner Glenda Powell-Freeman

Council Liaison Ian Cotton

7 Commissioner Angel Shimelish

Executive Office Liaison Art Ceniza

8 Commissioner Pining Reyes

Staff Member Julie Moore

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10 30. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Powell-Freeman moved to approve the minutes from
11 December 9, 2014, Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously
12 approved.

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14 40. **Public Comments:** Mayor Nicola Smith and HR Analyst Tracy Sloan were in attendance
15 as well as community member Barbara Cornell and Councilmember AuBuchon.

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17 50. **Council Liaison Update:** Reported below.

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19 60. **New Business:**

20 60.1 **2015 MLK Celebration Update:** The 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. evening
21 celebration was cancelled by the President of Edmonds Community College. There were
22 many determining factors that went into her ultimate decision, but many of them revolved
23 around campus security. Diversity Commissioners expressed their extreme disappointment
24 in hearing this news. Many felt that this event directly reaches out to our communities of
25 color and it is a huge letdown to those communities. Diversity Commissioners reiterated
26 their desire to be more involved in the planning process, possibly serving on the steering
27 committee, for next year's event. Staff Liaison Moore will make sure that Edmonds
28 Community College includes a member of the Diversity Commission on next year's
29 steering committee. Commissioners felt strongly that they would like to host an event in
30 February honoring Black History Month. A sub-committee will be formed to start the
31 planning of this event.

32 60.2 **Mayor's Welcome Message:** Mayor Nicola Smith was in attendance to wish the
33 Diversity Commission a happy new year and convey her theme for 2015. The Mayor and
34 her administrative team has adopted the theme "Fix It, Refresh It, Grow It". She explained
35 that this means the city will be working on fixing its foundation such as outdated policies
36 and codes, conduct efficiency studies and work on process improvements, and explore
37 ways to better serve our constituents. The city has already begun compiling a 'Fix It List'.
38 Mayor Smith thanked the Diversity Commission for their service and invited them to
39 participate in the 'Fix It and Refresh It' process.

40

41 Mayor Smith made an announcement regarding a staffing change to the Diversity
42 Commission. Human Resources Analyst Tracy Sloan will now be the Diversity
43 Commission's Staff Liaison. The Diversity Commission identified two top priorities last
44 year of cultural competency training for city staff and working to diversify city employee
45 demographics. In order to effectively work towards these two priorities it is best served to
46 have an employee from the Human Resources Department be the Staff Liaison. Tracy is
47 looking forward to working with the Commission to achieve these important priorities.
48 Assistant City Administrator Art Ceniza will continue to attend the Diversity Commission
49 meetings as well as a direct connection to the Mayor's Office.

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- 1 **60.3 Council Liaison Introductions:** Council Liaison Ian Cotton introduced himself to the
2 Commission. He gave his brief background and stated that he was looking forward to
3 working with the Diversity Commission this year. There was a question raised as to why
4 the Council Liaison changed and Staff Liaison Moore responded that Council appointments
5 are done every year in January and it is typical for Councilmembers to change which
6 boards and commissions they serve on each year.
- 7 **60.4 Election of Officers:** Rosamaría Graziani was elected as the 2015 Chair and Berel
8 Paltiel was elected as the 2015 Vice Chair.
- 9 **60.5 2015 Work Plan:** Commissioners did a quick brainstorm of the items they were like
10 to work on in 2015: citizen town halls, MLK Event for 2016, monthly cultural themes,
11 outreach to the community (survey, etc.), cultural competency trainings, mentorships,
12 recruitment of diverse candidates.
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- 14 **70. Staff Update:** None
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- 16 **80. Old Business:** None
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- 18 **90. Comments for the Good of the Order:** None
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- 20 **100. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm by Chair Sutton.