

From: Les Francis <les_francis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 4:00 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: FW: Protesting Board's Plans to abolish Human Rights Commission

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Les Francis](#)
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:24 PM
To: bosthree@edcgov.us
Cc: [Les Francis](#)
Subject: Protesting Board's Plans to abolish Human Rights Commission

Dear Supervisor Thomas,

I attempted to send an email earlier today, but I am not sure if it transmitted; so, I am making a second effort. By the way, I sent you an email in early February (slightly more than a month ago), but have yet to receive a reply. I am a constituent (Camino), and I voted for you. To say that I am disappointed in your posture vis-à-vis the HRC is an understatement. I have generally viewed you as a moderately conservative leader, one not driven by ideology but rather by principle. Frankly, I fear that your position on this issue belies that image.

Before I get to the specifics of my argument I ask you to consider the words of my former boss, President Jimmy Carter, who has pointed out that **“America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, it is the other way around.”** That is a powerful sentiment, and it is extremely relevant to the current debate.

My key points are as follows:

- Human rights are under assault around the globe. El Dorado County should be a bulwark against such assaults, not an enabler;
- There have been a number of human rights abuses in El Dorado County over the past few years; citizens should have an official channel through which to voice concerns about such abuses;
- Protection of human rights is a legitimate and necessary function of government; shifting that responsibility to a non-profit entity is a fig leaf that doesn't provide the cover or protection you think it will;
- We should want to make El Dorado County a welcoming community to all people, not a hostile one;

- This is a time for political courage, not bowing to extremists' agendas.

I truly hope you and your colleagues will consider my view with the same seriousness with which it is offered.

Thank you.

Les Francis
Camino

[Mail](#) for Windows

From: Melissa Keyzer <melissakeyzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:59 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Re item #23-0283

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Please forward to the members of the EDC BOS. Thank you.

To the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Melissa Keyzer. I am an El Dorado Hills resident, and mother of four school-aged children. I write to you to express my support of maintaining the El Dorado County Commission, and allowing them to continue their important work. As a mother of young children, I am hopeful that the adults of our community can continue to demonstrate our commitment to addressing and educating one another on matters of human rights, as an example to our children. Human rights is an area where we as a community, often divided along political lines, can come together in agreement, and I believe we should make the most of this common goal. As Americans, we are all taught to hold the values of basic rights, the rights to life and liberty, health and education, and freedom of expression in the highest regard. Please let our County Human Rights Commission continue to provide educational opportunities for our community on these important basic values, and to demonstrate our county's commitment to upholding these values in all we do.

Thank you,
Melissa Keyzer

From: Davie Fecteau <drfecteau@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:59 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Regarding Reference Item Number 23-0283

Please forward my letter to the Board of Supervisors.

I once again would like to state my opinion regarding the Human Rights Commission and Implicit Bias Training. I am writing to email you about my disappointment to hear that you are voting to disband the Human Rights Commission. It was very disheartening to hear this news. The Human Rights Commission meeting that I had checked out on zoom this past year gave me encouragement for this county. This county has a myriad of human rights issues that need addressing and I was hopeful that the Board, with the help of this commission would be able to help create some solutions to homelessness, racism, and other human rights issues that our county (and every county encounters). Dismantling this commission sends the message that the Board can't be bothered with these issues. It is also disrespectful to all of the people who were a part of the commission that were broadsided by this abrupt decision. For Human Rights issues in the community, there needs to be a committee that can step in to hear and assess the issues and present problem solving solutions to the board. Delegating this work to a non profit that isn't equipped to handle every issue that may come up is not the way to approach the problems in our county.

Implicit bias training is also very vital for committee members and board members to participate in. I take it myself in my field of work. It should be required in every field of work because people working with any other people will have biases. It's important to be learn how to be self aware so that we can examine our own bias and better listen and communicate with others in our county and community.

Very respectfully,
Davene Fecteau
El Dorado Hills

From: Robin Valicenti <robinvalic3nti@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:26 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission item

3/13/2023

Please distribute to all supervisors for item

7. 23-0283

Clerk of the Board, based on direction provided the Board of Supervisors, recommending the Board: 1) Approve the Introduction (First Reading) of Ordinance 5175 amending Title 2, Article XIV, Section 2.20.110 (et.seq.), dissolving the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission; and 2) Waive full reading of the Ordinance, read by title only and continue

3/13/2023

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please do not disband the Human Rights Commission in El Dorado County. Please delay the second reading and hearing so the public has sufficient time to understand the magnitude of your proposed action.

Disbanding a human rights commission that takes the time to listen to marginalized and vulnerable members of our county share their experiences of suffering, intimidation and disquieting isolation is a violation of human decency

I have only been on the commission for a short time however, in that short time I have witnessed people experiencing life in the elements without shelter share the unnerving truth of how demoralizing and dependent their lives became in El Dorado County after deteriorating healthcare. Three people gave testimony at the EDC HRC **Community Homeless Forum** who experienced injury/illness, which led to inability to work, which led to inability to pay rent, which led to agency dependence, which led to more demoralizing failure to maintain independence. Don't you want healthy communities' commissioners? My supervisor, John Hidahl runs a healthy community series of public meetings. He addressed mental health, and access to healthcare. A young lgbtq student shared her feelings of being stigmatized and isolated on top of mental health concerns. He is compassionate and concerned about the community, why are you not? Social change is not always political (think of acceptance of child labor at the turn of the century or chattel slavery in the antebellum and Jim Crow USA), not political yet people fought for it to continue, not political but in need of change)

Sadly, affordable housing in El Dorado county, especially for those without an income is challenging and often unattainable for those impacted by poverty, pain and depression or other mental health challenges. Where is your sympathy, compassion, and willingness as local leaders to acknowledge the **weakest and most stigmatized among us. This includes unhoused veterans, children who are homeless (yes there is a segment of the unhoused population who are children moving from house to house and couch to couch (statistics from Housing El Dorado and EDCO) fire victims unable to access resources, people with mental health issues, those experiencing substance use disorders, those with stigmatized sexual and gender orientations, women suffering from domestic violence, people who are not white and experience racism, people who are unable to access clean water and air, people who follow non-Christian religions, those with food insecurity and so on and so on. Why do you want to turn a blind eye and reframe their suffering as political? Yes they need resources but not for political reasons, for quality of life reasons and human rights reasons.**

As leaders you do not need to like those who are different from you , but you are expected to represent their best interests. How can you as leaders represent their best interests if you do not want to look at the problem and make moves to fix it. Disbanding the commission is denial on your part and appears as an effort to marginalize these humans

further. It is your responsibility to look out for us humans, not dehumanize the weak and least able to defend themselves, and turn a blind eye. I witnessed racism in my town of El Dorado Hills and accepted the sanctions the CIF imposed on my local high school for not stopping and acknowledging racism when it happened. The HRC had the EDCO representatives speak to the commission as they acknowledged the fact that the incident was not acknowledged in real time and made amends to change the way the school addresses racism. Racism does exist in the county and should not be upheld. I have actually worked with the Oakridge high school students in creating and hanging an art exhibit at the K-12 gallery (I am an artist and licensed professional clinical counselor) regarding expression of mental health concerns and accompanied them down to the state capitol, along with their teachers and principal to meet with their representatives and share their mental health concerns and learn how government can help, civic engagement is something that can be learned (Dahle and Kiley at the time). I want to empower people to speak their truth, not dismiss it in fear of the opinions of others.

Allowing people in the community who are suffering a space to be seen, heard, and shared with the public under the watchful eye of local government in a respectful manner is not activism. How dare you Ms Parlin accuse the commission of such. . Also Commissioners Thomas, Parlin and Turnboo, you all represent districts that are less diverse than districts 1 and 5. I invite you to think about your exposure to and understanding of diversity and how that impacts your votes. I am very disturbed you removed the required Implicit Bias training as that is designed to reduce discrimination. Do you want discrimination to continue?

I know of all the procedural issues that were not followed in your attempts to disband this commission, there are many submitted to this agenda item and I have read most of them. I agree with them and will be monitoring how that lack of attention to legal protocol was violated by the Board of Supervisors.

I was shocked by the lead person trying to disband the commission, Ms Purlins' bullish banter during the BOS meeting of 3/7 and her walking out of the meeting when she did not win a vote to be on an ad hoc committee. She looked like a petulant child. That is not good stewardship as a county leader and it was witnessed by the community and it is on video. Maybe members of the public are following her decorum when they name call and bully people who are different from them. Think about that.

I can say much more about how horrible disbanding the commission is but I will close this letter hoping you hear my plea to be more compassionate.

Kind Regards,
Robin Valicenti

From: mandela98 <mandela98@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:25 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Agenda Item: 23-0283, Opposition to Disbanding the EDC Human Rights Commission

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To El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

Agenda Item 23-0283

Opposition to Disbanding the EDC Human Rights Commission

March 13, 2023

The EDC Board of Supervisors' (BOS) establishment of a county Human Rights Commission in 2018 is a milestone to be lauded and built upon, not disbanded.

In 1961, the California Legislature adopted provisions promoting the establishment of commissions in California counties "to foster peaceful relations in the interest of preserving the public peace among citizens of different races, religions and national origins," including authorizing the expenditure of public funds to attain these objectives (GC 50260, 50261 as enacted). By amendment in 2001, the Legislature specifically provided for the creation of county commissions on human relations, and included precise responsibilities and duties (GC 50262-50265).

Over 60 years after enactment of the initial statute, the EDC Human Rights Commission was created by the BOS in only 2018, it is fewer than 5 years old.

To learn that a member of the BOS has called the Commission "a complete failure" is like a parent blaming a child who is malnourished for the parent's failure to feed them. When the same BOS member stated that the member did not envision the Board "allocating... the enormous resources... needed to make the (Commission successful)" and "We just aren't doing it well," is tantamount to an admission the child was produced, then abandoned. It is reported that the same BOS member thereafter moved to "disband the Human Rights Commission" and instead appoint 2 BOS members "to participate on the Bridging Divides-El Dorado group." The motion was seconded.

Further, the child is almost 5 and is becoming a problem: It is becoming "activist."

The proposed referral to a non-profit agency, i.e., "adopting out" the child is inappropriate. The non-profit referred to, Bridging Divides-El Dorado (newly inaugurated in the Fall of 2022) is a committee of its parent non-profit the El Dorado Community Foundation, which exists "for charitable and educational activities" per its website. While extremely significant, the purposes of the Foundation and of the EDC Human Rights Commission per the Government Code and EDC ordinance, are not the same.

The Human Rights Commission is charged by law with taking "actions": to conduct studies, inquire into incidents of tension and conflict, to conduct and recommend educational programs, to hold conferences and public meetings, to issue publications and reports, to enlist the cooperation and participation of people, to encourage and stimulate agencies within the jurisdiction of the local governing body to take action. (GC 59264, 50265.)

The work of the EDC Human Rights Commission is vital. It is undisputed that our society is divided, as too often reflected by untruths, hate speech, and violence. Efforts to understand and ensure public peace, health, safety, and the general welfare are necessary.

As such, the BOS must:

1. Provide accurate documentation of its meetings;
2. Ensure transparency by stating facts and bases for positions and decisions;
3. Respond as required to complaints made including concerning its review of the EDC Human Rights Commission;
4. Support the work of the EDC Human Rights Commission;
5. Provide funding in furtherance of the EDC Human Rights Commission's responsibilities and duties;
6. Fill vacancies in furtherance thereof; and
7. Take appropriate action on consideration of recommendations of the EDC Human Rights Commission.

Barbara Haukedalen
EDC District 4 Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: Eric Magneson <em2magneson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:19 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: I support the continued existence of the Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from em2magneson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

I watched the January 24 BOS meeting and was dismayed to witness first, Supervisor Lori Parlin disparage the work of the Human Rights Commission, and then later put forward a motion to disband the Human Rights Commission altogether. The BOS responded by voting 3-2 to dissolve the Human Rights Commission. I strongly believe that disbanding the HRC is premature and unwise. I believe the HRC should continue in its mission to "promote tolerance and mutual respect among all persons, and to foster peaceful relations in the interest of preserving the public peace among residents of different races, religions, national origins, and the other characteristics listed in Government Code section 11135."

Parlin expressed a mish-mash of vague grievances against the HRC, her three primary complaints being:

- she has a hard time knowing what the HRC is doing; and that [she] can't "personally articulate what the commission has done to help the Board and county"
- the HRC lacks proper boundaries and doesn't know how to be in their "lane"
- the HRC doesn't have the proper resources to do its job.

Please allow me to address Supervisor Parlin's points:

First, contrary to Parlin's belief that the commission hasn't really achieved much during its tenure, the HRC has accomplished quite a bit, especially for a young organization launching itself during the onset of a pandemic. Since July 2018, the HRC has:

- established a Purpose, Vision Statement, and by-laws
- held a Public Human Rights forum
- developed a strategic plan
- created a report on "Implicit Bias"
- met with county educators to discuss instances of bullying and discrimination at school sites and at the district level
- hosted Civil Rights Attorney Mark Merin to speak on the difference between Civil Rights and Human Rights
- held a forum on the homeless in El Dorado County,
- developed a Speaker series on Human Rights
- enlisted members to attend CA Attorney General Rob Bonta's webinar on Hatred Against the AAPI Community

Second, if the HRC lacks boundaries or proper knowledge of county governance procedures, then I believe it is the BOS's responsibility to identify and provide clear guidance to the HRC (and frankly to all county commissions) so that it can effectively operate without violating any laws. (Interestingly enough,

when the HRC requested funding for Implicit Bias and Good Governance Training for its commissioners, that request was denied by the BOS.) Rather than dismantle the HRC, both the HRC and the BOS should work together to resolve their current disconnect. To abandon the commission altogether is not good governance and is to ignore the very real and dire issues that face our county with regards to discrimination, equity issues, racism, and sexism.

Third, Supervisor Parlin states that the HRC doesn't have proper resources to do its job. True, it may be that the commission doesn't have access to county funding, but it's important to note that the commission has done an admirable job in spite of being underfunded. Though four years of outreach and education, much of it during a pandemic, they've established a valuable network of groups and individuals who support their cause and their work. To disband the HRS could quite likely sever those important community ties.

Unfortunately, it appears that during its brief tenure the HRC has been stymied rather than supported by the BOS. Less than two years after the commissioners were appointed, Supervisor Parlin proposed that the HRC either be disbanded or put on hiatus until a formal process had been created for bringing up issues on their agenda. Such extreme proposals seem to me unwarranted. Why put the HRC on hiatus? Instead, why not have the Board actually lend a helping hand? As a new organization just getting its sea-legs, wise guidance from the Board seems to me imperative.

Then, on December 8, 2020, the Board set up further roadblocks for the HRC by redlining one of its most important responsibilities, deleting the following bylaw:

C. To inquire into incidents of tension and conflict among or between people, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or any other factors, and to take action by means of conciliation, conference and persuasion to alleviate those tensions and conflict.

This gutting of the language that represents the very heart of the Human Rights Commission's mission seems to be an act of bad faith, designed to weaken and erode the organization's integrity and ability to do the work of upholding equality, fairness, safety, and respect.

Furthermore, Supervisor Parlin suggested that the concerns of the Human Rights Commission are best served by a non-profit, specifically recommending that Bridging Divides El Dorado as the best organization to address these concerns. This was a preposterous and presumptuous suggestion on Parlin's part as she had not consulted with Bridging Divides to see if it would even be willing to take on the work of the HCR. In the same vein, Parlin did not consult or discuss with the Human Rights Commission her intention to disband the organization. No matter her claims otherwise, her actions are disrespectful, revealing a basic disregard for the effort and work undertaken by the HCR and for the tenets of due process.

I would like to echo Supervisor John Hidahl's comments when he said that the establishment of a healthy commission requires several stages: forming, storming, norming, and then high-performing. It takes time for a county commission to establish itself and fully engage with the community. The work involves outreach, education, publicity, and public forums. Establishing a robust Human Rights Commission is a long-term commitment because human rights *ARE* long-term. And as a Board, when you signed the Human Rights Commission into existence, you were making that commitment to the preservation of human rights in our county. Give the HRC a chance by offering them the proper support and guidance. Don't shut this commission down and undo all the good work that has already been accomplished.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Moira Magneson
Placerville, CA

From: Karen Bertram <kbertram1@me.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:16 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283

[You don't often get email from kbertram1@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I have been a resident of El Dorado County since 1991.

I implore you NOT to disband the County Human Rights Commission. In this time of increased hate crimes against minority populations, we need the Human Rights Commission more than ever.

Please use your vote to maintain the County Human Rights Commission.

Thank you for your time,

Karen Bertram
2019 Outrigger Drive
El Dorado Hills, CA

From: Dorotea Bladen <teabladen22@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:16 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Cc: BOS-District I
Subject: BOS Meeting 3/14/23 Agenda Item 23-0283
Attachments: HRC Formal complaint 031423.docx

Some people who received this message don't often get email from teabladen22@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,
Please see my attached word document which is a formal complaint regarding the Procedure and Process for Disbanding the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Regards,
Dorotea Bladen
El Dorado Hills

From: Dorotea Bladen
Board of Supervisory District 1

To: Whom it May Concern
Persons of Interest
Clerk of the Board: edc.cob@edcgov.us
Please cc: Legal Council

Re: Agenda Item 23-0283 (3/14/2023)

This letter will be sent to those agencies/departments which the information within may concern

Subject Matter: Formal Complaint: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Procedure and Process for Disbanding the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission (HRC).

I am submitting this complaint because I believe there has been a problem with the process and procedure that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors have taken to disband the County HRC which does not allow for An open, transparent public meeting process:

- Access by the public and constituents for participation
- Notification to the public
- Notification to appointees that are being removed from governmental position

Each Human Rights Commissioner is appointed by their District Supervisor. Two Supervisors are appointed and sit on the HRC.

Issue 1: Ending of Human Rights Commission Meetings

Lack of transparency, lack of openness, Authority for ending the meetings, Brown Act Violation ?

The last HRC meeting was November 28, 2022. The HRC commission meetings did not resume after the HRC made its year end presentation to the County Board of Supervisors which also included the Commission's proposed 2023 work plan.

There was never an agendized item, public meeting, or public vote by the Supervisors to end a County Commission meeting schedule. A single supervisor requested to the HRC Chair that the commission no longer meet. No other commissioners or the public was notified and the meetings ceased to continue.

Issue 2: January 24, 2023 Meeting arguments against the Human Rights Commission, Elected official inability to participate

The arguments made against the actions of the Human Rights Commission are all documented guidelines on how the commission should operate based on Ordinances which the Board of Supervisors have adopted and even amended over the last several years:

3-20-18 Ordinance 5081(Initial Parameters of HRC)

3-19-19 Ordinance 5099 adopted.pdf (New 2 year evaluation established)

4-9-19 Bylaws - approved

9-29-20 Amended Draft Bylaws

12-8-20 Item - Ordinance 5134 (No funding is allocated for HRC training)

One argument is made that there are not enough Supervisors on the Commission. The Board of Supervisors have the ability to appoint Supervisors. One Supervisor space is vacant on the Commission. The newly elected Supervisor volunteered and requested to be on the Commission. Her request was not entertained

Issue 3: Lack of transparency and openness of an agenda item. Action taken not identified in the agenda.
Brown Act Violation?

The January 24, 2023 agenda and meeting description:

Item 37 37. 23-0128 Clerk of the Board recommending the Board discuss the purpose, mission and membership of the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission and provide direction to staff on how to proceed.

Action taken - A motion was made, seconded, and approved to direct staff to return to the Board within 60 days with an item to disband the Human Rights Commission.

This agenda item did not alert the public that the Human Rights Commission had the potential to be disbanded. This is an action which will remove commissioners from their public appointment. The Commissioners were not notified to attend.

A cure and correct letter was submitted to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors which was addressed in closed session 3/7/2023. No report out was made.

Issue 4: Upcoming Procedure - Dissolution of the Human Rights Commission by Ordinance

The first ordinance reading will be waived on 3/14. The second reading and final passage of the ordinance is currently scheduled for 3/21.

Problems with notification. If this is an ordinance, shouldn't there be 1) publication of the ordinance, 2) a public hearing before the vote to decide on accepting or rejecting the ordinance.

With the publication of the ordinance, should that include all areas of the County from South Lake Tahoe to El Dorado Hills? Does this need to be in print media?

With a public hearing isn't there a mandated time that the public needs to be noticed before their is a public hearing? How should this notice occur?

This is a decision to remove public appointees from a Brown Act Commission. The commissioners need to be notified to attend the meeting and each allowed to provide testimony. The commissioners should be given time to speak, separately from public comments.

With the procedure and process that has been done up to this point, I am concerned that the due process for the hearing may not be followed which will again limit the public's ability to have access and participate in what should be open, public meetings per the government code.

Respectfully yours,
Dorotea Bladen
El Dorado Hills

From: Hillary Garrett <hillary.a.garrett@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:00 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: In regards to Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from hillary.a.garrett@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

I am a resident of ED County and I DO NOT agree with disbanding the County Human Rights Commission. ED County is not in a position where I feel all human rights would be carefully taken into account without the existence of this commission.

Thanks!

Hillary

From: Pat Woolston <patwoolston@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:56 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Agenda item 23-0283

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Dear Supervisors: We wish to express our disapproval of the Board's intention to cancel the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission. My husband and I have lived in this county since 1969. Our County has nothing to be proud of in the way it has treated minorities in the past and continues to do so today. Given that the "Hangtown" nickname hasn't been purged from our community and school children are still being harassed in our schools, our community continues to need a Human Rights Commission. Eliminating the commission will not show the world that we aren't "woke"; it will show that we are angry and regressive. Please do what is right for our citizens and our businesses and recognize that bigotry and racism is still with us. Keep the Human Rights Commission.

Pat and Kym Woolston

From: Judy Johnson <jujojo4343@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:51 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human rights commission

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El dorado county really needs a human rights commission! There is definitely too much bullying and harassment, and it needs to be admitted and addressed if this county will be a good place to live.

Don't cancel the Hunan Rights Commission!

Judy johnson
Placerville

From: Mary ElliottKlemm <ml.elliott@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:31 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I sent a letter a week or so ago with my comments regarding your proposed abolishment of the Human Rights Commission.

I feel very strongly about this move.

Given that there are numerous issues demonstrating the need, it is a dereliction of your duty as a Supervisor to abolish this commission.

You can surely find a way to help this commission serve the community effectively.

It is your responsibility.

Where there's a will there's a way.

Best wishes,
Mary Elliott-Klemm

Sent from my iPhone

From: Donna <donnalotus@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:17 PM
To: BOS-District IV
Cc: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283 Human Rights Commission

Some people who received this message don't often get email from donnalotus@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Supervisor Parlin,

I am a resident of District 4 and am writing today in support of the Human Rights Commission. I understand that there is a move to disband this commission. I strongly feel that El Dorado County needs this commission and that it should not be disbanded. Human Rights are a essential to uphold and protect and we need this commission to take a stand against bigotry, racism, hate and unequal allocation of resources. El Dorado County is too great for hate and we need to have a presence in county government that takes this stand. Please reconsider your position against the Human Rights Commission and for the sake of equity in our county, retain this important commission.

Thank you,
Donna Woicekowski
1502 Arrowbee Dr.
Placerville
donnalotus@gmail.com

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: Rupinder Colby <rupinder.colby@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:13 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: ED County, Human Rights Commission Item 23-0283

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Hello-

As a resident of El Dorado County, I strongly feel the Human Rights Commission serves a valuable role in bringing needed attention to issues such as access, public health, and discrimination.

Pls do not dissolve the commission. Pls invest our resources in this important work.

-Rupinder Colby

From: Patricia Stow (Patso) <ps.rivergirl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:12 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Please don't disband the HRC

[You don't often get email from ps.rivergirl@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Supervisors

I object to disbanding the Human Rights Commission. I object for multiple reasons but my primary examples are incidents of hate and bigotry in the county. I taught in Placerville for 30 years. As a teacher I saw many examples of bigotry and hate among my young students who were no doubt mirrors of their parents. We had incidences where teachers were threatened and/or children were shuffled between teachers or schools because parents did not agree with the curriculum that was set by the state of California. This is not simply a school district's problem. It is more systemic than that. I have a neighbor who displays a giant metal cut out of a middle finger with the President's name written on it. He also has a swastika by his garage door. Is it his right...certainly. Am I ok knowing the hate and disdain this man has for people who don't agree with him...NO. I know a HRC will not change this man's bias but it would perhaps help others. A commission is not the only solution but we have to have/make tools available to this community that will perhaps teach individuals tolerance and acceptance. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Pat Stow

From: Margie Lopez Read <cooperlopezread@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:57 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board; BOS-District I; BOS-District II; BOS-District III; BOS-District IV; BOS-District V
Cc: Bob Read
Subject: Agenda item 23-0283 on the March 14, 2023 BOS meeting.

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cooperlopezread@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear County Supervisors;

I have previously written to the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) regarding the potential actions to eliminate Implicit Bias training, and now to disband the Human Rights Commission. Both are highly disturbing given facts which show a long history of Human Rights Violations in this County as well as a disregard when there are infringements on personal rights if the victim is a person of color, LGBTQ, or a woman. However, I can't help but note that these harmful BOS actions seem to be originating from one Board Member in particular, and sadly that is Lori Parlin.

I find this very disappointing because Ms. Parlin campaigned on responsible land use and retaining the rural nature of El Dorado County. This appealed to many voters of District 4 (and also to people like me in District 3). Ms. Parlin was also registered as "No Party Preference" at the time and was celebrated for that with much bi-partisan support. As a result, she was elected in November 2018, and began her first term of office in January 2019.

Perhaps if we had learned what Lori Parlin thinks about human rights, she would not have been elected. Regardless, the following actions by her are alarming when taken together:

1. The HRC had been established almost two years. Yet on 30 June 2020, Parlin suggested changing the way the HRC would be allowed to operate and also made her first suggestion that the HRC be disbanded.
2. On 24 January 2023, with Novasel no longer serving on the Commission, Parlin forged ahead with a suggestion to dismantle the HRC, even though the discussion **was not on the agenda**. Supervisor Brook Laine of District 5 suggested that she could take Novasel's place and sit on that commission. This suggestion was ignored.
3. Now Supervisor Parlin states that that the HRC is too activist. Yet during the same discussion she claims that the HRC does not accomplish anything. How can an organization can be taking too much action, and taking no action at the same time? It can't be both. If the BOS is to support Supervisor Parlin, it needs to be more honest and specific as to what is wrong with the HRC.

From my perspective, the HRC has been doing good work that falls within their mandate, including sponsoring educational events. Those events were well-attended by the public. As with all organizations, activity stopped during the COVID shut down. But when they once again began meeting regularly and working within their roles with the oversight of two members of the BOS.

Taking the stance that our county does not need a Human Rights Commission is willful ignorance, as we are dealing with issues of hate crimes and hateful speech ongoing and the consequences to our

schools, places of worship and businesses. This County is already known throughout the country as the one with the Proud Boy Santa and a man hanging from a noose downtown. Why would any casual observer be surprised that a commission to help protect Human Rights would also be abolished?

Thank you for your time and attention, and I urge you to think carefully about the effect that disbanding the HRC would have on citizens of this county who are most impacted, as well as the image of El Dorado County that is being projected throughout the country. This is the time for the BOS to make it clear where you stand with respect to Human Rights.

Margie Lopez Read
Placerville

From: Kim Stevens <kstevens65@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:00 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283
Attachments: Reminder: Call to Action.eml

[You don't often get email from kstevens65@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Clerk of the Board,

I am writing today in support of keeping El Dorado County's Human Rights Commission. As much as ever, human rights are in jeopardy and someone needs to stand up for those being discriminated against, subjected to domestic abuse, faced with polluted water and/or air, and who are dealing with public health concerns and ever-changing environmental conditions. As a community lead agency, EDC must commit to protecting the human rights of its citizens and visitors to the area. We cannot sit by and allow people, because of their own greed, bigotry, incompetence, or ignorance to take away the rights of people. Disbanding the Human Rights Commission is a short-sighted plan that will make El Dorado County a less safe place for people to live and raise their children.

Thank you for your time,
Kimberlee Stevens
Pilot Hill resident and tax payer

From: El Dorado County Democratic Party <info@edcdems.org>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:04 AM
To: kstevens65@gmail.com
Subject: Reminder: Call to Action

x

x

...needed by March 13, 4pm

Friends,

Hopefully you are aware that some members of the ED County Board of Supervisors are on a mission to disband the County Human Rights Commission.

As Allyson Tabor of the South Lake Tahoe Democratic Club wrote: "This County needs a Human Rights Commission. Incidents of bigotry, hate and unequal access to resources are part of what some residents experience every day. But human rights are not limited to discrimination and social interactions. Human rights include freedom from domestic violence, along with access to clean water, clean air, public health and shelter. These are all County issues we face right now."

The more people speak up and object to disbanding HRC, the better.

Item 23-0283 Clerk of the Board, based on direction provided the Board of Supervisors, recommending the Board: 1) Approve the Introduction (First Reading) of Ordinance 5175 amending Title 2, Article XIV, Section 2.20.110 (et.seq.), dissolving the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission; and 2) Waive full reading of the Ordinance, read by title only and continue the matter to March 21, 2023 for Final Passage (Second Reading).

[Link to BOS March 14 Agenda](#)

HOW TO HELP

1. **WRITE AN EMAIL** in support of keeping Human Rights Commission, **before 4pm on Monday, March 13**, to Clerk of the Board at edc.cob@edcgov.us. Clerk of the Board will share it with all 5 Supervisors and it will be placed in public record. Refer to Item 23-0283 in the subject line of your email.
2. **ATTEND THE BOS MEETING VIA ZOOM** and make a statement (3 minute maximum) on Tuesday, March 14. Raise your "Zoom hand" when they call the agenda item, not when they are taking open comments - but if in doubt, raise your hand and they will politely correct you if you need to wait for the item. Be sure to thank the Board for their time. Here is the Zoom link: <https://edcgov-us.zoom.us/j/87250355168>.
3. **ATTEND THE BOARD MEETING IN PERSON** on Mar 14 at 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, and speak during the public comments for item 23-0283. You don't have to be a brilliant public speaker, you can read your written statement, 3 minutes or less. Again, be sure to thank the Board for their time.
4. **NOTE** the exact time of the agenda item is unknown. The BOS meeting starts at 9a, and this agenda item should not be called before 10am but they may move it around.

KEEP IN MIND: Comments or emails do NOT need to be long or detailed, but are most effective if they are your personal words, not a "form letter" or copy/paste. Even a couple sentences of your own words will be helpful. If you have observed or experienced violations of human rights in the county, speak from your experience.

LINKS click to open



[Link to BOS March 14 Agenda](#)

[Helpful document on contacting your Supervisor AND history of Human Rights Commission](#)



The above document includes:

- How to Communicate with BOS
- How to Participate in a BOS Meeting
- Overview of Effort to Disband HRC
- List of HRC Ordinances and legal documents
- History of HRC ACTIONS
- Select Media Coverage
- Some Letters to the Board re HRC
- Links to 1-24-23 and 2-14-23 BOS meetings with **transcriptions, time-stamps** and summaries
- more

Submit your email to Clerk of the Board before 4 PM on Monday, March 13th to ensure the Supervisors have opportunity to review it and so that the letter is included as part of the public record.

CONNECT WITH US!

El Dorado County Democratic Party | P.O. Box 1126, Diamond Springs, CA 95619
www.edcdems.org

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Sent by info@edcdems.org powered by



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From: Sheila Bush <scboneoften@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:29 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from scboneoften@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I believe the Human Rights Commission is a necessary part of El Dorado County and I oppose it's cancellation.

From: Julie Robinson <injoyjulie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:24 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: 3/14/23 BOS agenda item 17. 23-0283

Dear Board Members,

Your decision today is a big one. The details of the "why and when" will be lost. This decision to disband, rather than revise or improve the Human Rights Commission, represents something much bigger, with larger ramifications. The eye's of not only this county, but the State of California are on you, if not even further afield.

You are sitting at the cusp of deciding "who is America" in deciding "who is El Dorado County". Are we going to recognize that discriminatory actions still take place regularly in El Dorado County, or will the White Board of Supervisors decide that "all is well." That's the message that you will be sending if you disband the HRC.

Will our message be "we are racist segregationists?" Are we welcoming to all? Our reputation is on the line.

Disbanding the HRC could readily be interpreted as "we want Whites only here".

These types of racist dog whistles celebrating lynching/Hanging plus taking away avenues for minorities voices to be heard I believe will not be good for our County. This might not be your intent, but perception trumps all.

Tourists and possible new businesses who are comparing the several countries that are in the Gold country have choices of several counties to invest, settle in or visit. I worry that El Dorado County having a current racist reputation will negatively effect our economic well being. Many people vote with their dollar. California is a liberal State, there could be a silent boycott where we lose tourists to North Shore Tahoe in Placer County. Young affluent people in more liberal areas don't come as El Dorado County to spend their money. We are referred to as "the Texas of California."

US companies disinvesting in South Africa in the 1980's crippled their economy which forced the dismantling of Apartheid. You may be inadvertently crippling the economy of El Dorado County, just at a time that you have formed an Economic Development department and are revising CEDAC to be more effective.

Please consider your actions carefully as it could have profound impacts on the wellbeing of all EDC citizens.

Thank you
Julie Robinson

From: Sarah Saunders <cmyst123@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:10 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: RE: Agenda #17, 23-0238 for BOS meeting 3/14/23

Supervisors:

I have heard a lot of justification and excuses as to why this issue of dissolving the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission keeps being brought forward and I find all of them to be without merit.

The HRC is too activist? Two Supervisors oversee the HRC and the ordinances that have been passed and bylaws to amend them. The HRC has been shackled from 2019 onwards, and has STILL managed to do what the ordinances and bylaws stipulate and limit. You, the Supervisors, wanted the HRC to be mainly an educational commission; yet when they "educate" you interpret that as "activism"?

The HRC doesn't really do anything? You, the Supervisors, stipulated that the HRC was not to interfere or perform any kind of investigatory function in matters of human rights violations that were made public. And even so, the Human Rights Commission has done an excellent job of bringing forward general concerns and observations on broad categories of impacted and potentially vulnerable citizens of El Dorado County by holding forums and educational events on such concerns and categories of citizens.

There is really nothing delineating the role or duties of the HRC? You, the Supervisors, have passed ordinances and bylaws delineating the role and duties of the HRC. It is right there in the records for anyone to see that this is the case.

This is your job. This is not the job of a so-called "bi-partisan" private organization, that it seems was never even consulted. And what does "bi-partisan" even have to do with the Human Rights Commission? I was not aware that human rights was a partisan issue. And so far as I know, the bi-partisan members of the Board of Supervisors appoint their

constituents to the HRC. Human rights should not be a political or culture war football, and that is what I see happening here. Again, this is your job. This is why you were elected. Why must we constantly justify the need for the HRC, but we don't have to justify the need for many of the other 70+ county commissions that can't even seem to garner enough interest and support to have all of their commission slots filled? Why do you not decide that those other commissions are ineffectual, or that maybe a "bi-partisan" private organization can be given their work? In closing, I'd like to share that I normally can't attend BOS meetings, even on Zoom, because I work during the day. I requested a day off in the future to attend an upcoming BOS meeting, and explained why. And my supervisor gave me the ability to take that day off and THANKED ME for embodying our organization's values, which includes "Justice". And it occurred to me that this is really what this is all about - justice. We want to live in a community where there is justice and dignity for all of us, and that means that we must be vigilant and we must call out injustice and try to mitigate harm. Ignoring and denying problems does not solve problems.

Sincerely,

Sarah Saunders

Cool, 95614

916.420.2458

From: Kathie Kime <kkime01016@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:05 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: I Support Keeping EDC Human Rights Commission Fully INTACT!

You don't often get email from kkime01016@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I, a resident of El Dorado County, am in full support of keeping the EDC Human Rights Commission FULLY intact for the residents of El Dorado County now and forever.
Please make my email part of the Board's record for Tuesday, 3/14/2023 Supervisor's meeting on this matter.
Thank you for your time and consideration in this crucial matter.

Sincerely,
Katrina Kim

From: J.D. <chromeridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:03 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission needed!

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Dear Board Of Supervisors:

In view of the known instances where people of color, students of color have been harassed and bullied in this county, the move too to drop the Human Rights Commission is unwise.

Sincerely,

Joan Darling and Leo Warren

Sent from my iPhone

From: lynne baar <lynnebaar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 12:36 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from lynnebaar@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not cancel this commission. Our county NEEDS it.

Thank you.

Isobel Lynne Baar, registered voter in El Dorado County

From: Betsy Kerr <d.bkerr@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 12:35 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from d.bkerr@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Clerk:

I wish to express my strong objection to cancelling the Human Rights Commission in El Dorado County. In view of the many instances of bullying and harrassing of citizens of color, both in our schools and out, it's clear we need a panel to educate some of the citizens of this county who are not accepting of people who 'don't look like them'. We have had serious divisive speech and actions in our country. With your civil support, we can stop it here in El Dorado County.

Thank you.

Betsy Kerr
District 3

From: Patti Schrichfield <pschrichfield@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 12:16 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283

[You don't often get email from pschrichfield@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I want to voice my opinion as a long time resident of El Dorado County that we need to keep the Human Rights Commission. Because the Commission did not seem to provide the answers or directions that were envisioned, I think we don't eliminate it but instead try to provide clearer directions. As a long time educator and resident, this county has needed and continues to need a focus on human rights and the value to all people.

Please postpone the second reading and reconsider to keep the Commission.

From: Jenny Hwang <jenxhwang@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 12:08 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Refer to Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from jenxhwang@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Kim Dawson,

I am writing as a concerned resident from El Dorado Hills, regarding Item 23-0283 in the March 14 Agenda. To disband the County Human Rights Commission will be a grave mistake that harms our beautiful county. Every resident in El Dorado County is entitled to feel safe and secure in their homes, without the threat of losing clean water or shelter. Women and children should not live in fear or worse, having no one to help when they need it.

I pray that you will not disband the County Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,
Jenny Hwang

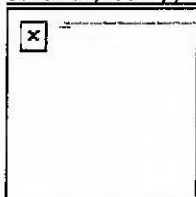
From: Trudy Franzen <franzentrudy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:44 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Cc: Karin Mai
Subject: Public Comment Human Rights Commission and Implicit Bias Training
Attachments: Human Rights Commission and Implicit Bias Training.pdf

You don't often get email from franzentrudy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Attached is our letter for public comment. Thank you,
Trudy Franzen
Karin Mai

--

The Rev. Trudy Franzen ~ she/her/hers
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, El Dorado Hills, CA
www.sslcedh.org
calendly.com/franzentrudy





St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

1001 OLSON LANE
EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762
Telephone: (916) 933-1441

Dear Supervisors,

March 1, 2023

On the morning of March 1, 2020, members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and the surrounding community were stunned to see hate speech and explicit and racist symbols spray painted on our sign on the corner of Olson and El Dorado Hills Blvd.

Photos were taken and Property Manager Gary Franzen went down to the point, meeting with a CSD worker who was diligently working to clean up the mess. He said that many sites in El Dorado Hills had been tagged, including park signs and signs for other businesses.

St. Stephen's was contacted within a few hours by the FBI, and Agent Robert Tripp came by the church to interview Pastor Franzen and Gary Franzen. According to Agent Tripp, the FBI takes these incidents very seriously. It is not just "kids out making trouble." It is a federal crime and the community has been harmed by the presence of white supremacy and the threat of violence.

A member of this congregation suffered the trauma of the Holocaust. She was just five years old when the Nazis came in the night and took her father. She starved, nearly died and witnessed atrocities and hatred that were unimaginable. When she saw the image of the Swastika on our church sign, she was triggered and retraumatized. Each time she witnesses or hears hate speech, she ever more resolved that racist violence should not take place anywhere in America and especially not in the home town of herself and that of her extended family: El Dorado Hills.

I was encouraged by the conversation with Agent Robert Tripp. He expressed distress and concern about white supremacy, systemic racism, police misconduct and affirmed our efforts to talk openly about racism with our Racial Healing Circles. Though we wished this had never happened, we do see that our work for healing and justice in this world is truly "in our own backyard."

The Human Rights Commission did nothing but promote peaceful living in our County. They did nothing to dishonor anyone, and sought safety and security for all of our residents.

Though a few of our residents would like nothing more than to establish a "Whites Only" County, I make the assumption that you, the Board of Supervisors, do not represent or consider yourselves part of that number. Your action to dismantle the Human Rights Commission puzzles and confuses me and the members of my congregation. We are disappointed in your decision to obstruct to good work that our law abiding citizens are trying to do on your behalf.

Furthermore, the decision to eliminate implicit bias training casts doubt on your credibility as earnest leaders.

Sincerely, Pastor Trudy Franzen
Congregation President Karin Mai
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, El Dorado Hills CA

From: Adam Laskowski <laskowski.am@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:30 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Do not disband the HRC!

You don't often get email from laskowski.am@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

Disbanding the HRC would be a massive step backwards for El Dorado. We should be fostering inclusiveness and not enable exclusivity among our residents. Disbanding is akin to building up further, divisive barriers out of fear. That would have recursive effects in the future as it sets a precedent that one person's rights are more important than another's, and this would only help feed hate and resentment.

Please reconsider this misstep before it is too late.

Sincerely,
Adam Laskowski

From: George Sheridan <georgegsheridan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:28 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights

You don't often get email from georgegsheridan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Racism - both personal and systemic - has not disappeared from our county. As an educator, I have observed incidents affecting my students and my own family. Similarly, LGBTQ students I have known personally have suffered extensive bullying.

But imagine that one day all such violations of human rights cease. Freedom must be won again and defended in each generation. And if our County government does not support institutions that defend human and civil rights, the rights of our County residents will be imperiled.

Please vote to reject the proposed Ordinance 5175 and in favor of maintaining the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission.

George Sheridan
Garden Valley

From: Marian Fitzpatrick <marian@fitzpatrickpt.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:04 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Please keep the Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from marian@fitzpatrickpt.com. [Learn why this is important](#)


I understand that Supervisor Parlin has introduced a measure to disband the County Human Rights Commission. I strongly oppose this move.

--

Marian Fitzpatrick, PT, NCS, OCS

Fitzpatrick Physical Therapy
Serving Placerville and Jackson, CA

1252 Broadway Ste B
Placerville, CA 95667
530 622-9410 phone
530 622-9445 fax

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From: Allyson Tabor <allytabor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 10:42 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Cc: BOS-District V; BOS-District IV; BOS-District III; BOS-District II; BOS-District I
Subject: Objection to Dissolving HRC, AGENDA ITEM 23-0283 for March 14, 2023
Attachments: Human Rights CommBOS_Item 23-0283 March14. 2023Tabor.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from allytabor@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Clerk of the Board: I object to the plans to dissolve the Human Rights Commission. Please include my attached letter in the record as opposing Item 23-0283, scheduled on the Agenda for March 14, 2023.

--

Allyson Tabor

**Argument Against Disbanding the Human Rights
Commission Item 23-0283
Allyson Tabor
March 13, 2023**

El Dorado County BOS created the Human Rights Commission (HRC) in March 2018 in response to increased bullying on school campuses and now, on Jan. 24, 2023, BOS Supervisors Parlin, Turnboo and Thomas voted to abolish HRC. Supervisors Laine and Hidahl voted to retain the HRC.

As stated in the EDC Board, Committee & Commission Handbook, the “commissions serve a vital role in County government by gathering and analyzing public input and recommending options to the Board... serve in a fact-finding or advisory role... assist the Board with the varied duties and responsibilities of local government and to encourage citizen involvement, expertise and participation .”

Under the 2018 ORDINANCE NO. 5081, the HRC’s purpose is to promote tolerance and mutual respect among all persons, and to foster peaceful relations in the interest of preserving the public peace among residents of different races, religions, national origins, and other characteristics..initial responsibilities were to “foster mutual respect and understanding...make any studies in any field of human relationships...inquire into incidents of tension and conflict...conduct and recommend any educational programs... hold public meetings in the interest of the constructive resolution of tensions, prejudice, and discrimination among or between groups of people, including people subject to prejudice and

discrimination due to race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or any other factors”.

No funding was provided to this Commission, and a 2020 request for funding for a training was denied by the BOS.

In 2020, the BOS reduced the duties of the commission by deleting “inquire into incidents of tension and conflict..” from the ordinance.

The BOS has a huge workload. As an example, 44 items appeared on the Jan. 24, 2023 agenda requiring Board decisions. The BOS would be hard pressed to decide on these matters if it could not rely on commissions, committees and staff to research and present data to the BOS. Commissions are bound by County ordinance to be transparent, unbiased and thorough when advising the BOS. Private organizations are bound by no such rules, and the suggestion by Spvrs. Parlin that a private organization such as Bridging Divide should be given the task of preserving the public peace & of fostering peaceful relations among residents of different races, religions & national origins is disingenuous and misguided. Private organizations have no statutory advisory role or accountability to the County, and therefore have no right to be heard & are less likely to ever make it onto the BOS calendar.

Why would Spvrs. Parlin, Turnboo and Thomas NOT want the BOS to be provided with assistance in tackling these issues? Are they against basic human rights? The concepts which fall under human rights are broad: right to freedom, equality, life, liberty, security, property, expression, participation in government etc. These are stated in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and various US documents i.e., Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Constitution etc.

These abstract terms mean nothing if not realized by concrete measures- one cannot have security and life if there is no shelter, food or clean water and disease prevention measures which

benefit the entire population, not just the wealthy. Human rights are not just being civil to one another, it is ensuring that humans have the means to lead a life in dignity. Entrusting this task to a non-governmental agency which does not have the means to enact broad societal changes or enforce the law will not work. As an example, Federal troops enforced school desegregation- not the good-hearted non-profits in Georgia.

Spvsr. Parlin held forth at the January 24th BOS with vague unsubstantiated claims that HRC had done nothing since its' inception (not true, Human Rights Day Proclamation 2020; Speaker Series developed 2022, Public Human Rights Forums were held July, 2019; Forum: "A Day in the Life of a Homeless Person" held June 13, 2022; School Board speakers at April 2022 mtg re bullying, discrimination; civil rights attorney speakers in May 2022; Speaker Series planned for 2023;).

Of note, the BOS placed HRC on a hiatus 2020, and Covid restrictions hampered that group from meeting.

Also at the Jan. 24 meeting, Spvsr. Parlin complained that HRC had legally endangered the County by contacting the Miwok Tribe: in fact, Spvsr. Hidahl proposed this.

Spvsr. Parlin complained about rotating members appointed each year and a lack of resources provided by the County: then why doesn't the County change the ordinance and bylaws and provide resources? Other commissions also have rotating members-are they being disbanded? Spvsr. Parlin referred to and criticized an HRC Work Plan during the meeting, but admitted she had not provided this plan to the BOS for prior review. She stated HRC "didn't stay in their lane", (the County) "could get in trouble if we don't put the rail" on HRC, has serious concerns about this and other commissions, but did not name them. What are the concerns, and why have those other commissions not also been disbanded?

If El Dorado County is truly interested in the advice and guidance that it can gain from commissions, then EDC BOS should be

willing to support, train & guide these commissions so they can do the work.

And a time commitment to the mission is required. Human rights is not a short-term goal with an end product. Other CA counties and entities acknowledge that this is a perennial issue and have formed & supported HR Commissions: Sonoma (1993), Los Gatos, Humboldt, Marin, Los Angeles, to name a few. Will El Dorado County be lauded as the County that miraculously solved all human rights concerns, past and future? Or will El Dorado County be known as the County that denied its' residents government access to discuss human rights by disbanding the Commission. As Supervisor Hidahl said, committees need to be allowed time to evolve through, "forming, storming, norming, to high performing." I encourage the BOS to retain the Human Rights Commission.

From: BOS-District V
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 10:39 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: FW: Human Rights Commission- Item 17
Attachments: BOS5 Letter HRC.docx

Public comment

Lisa Watson

Assistant to Supervisor Brooke Laine
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
530.663.3094 cell
530.621.6577 Placerville Office
530.573.7918 Tahoe Office
bosfive@edcgov.us

From: Sheryl Trainor <sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 10:21 AM
To: BOS-District V <bosfive@edcgov.us>
Subject: Human Rights Commission- Item 17

You don't often get email from sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Supervisor Laine,

Please see attached letter regarding the Human Rights Commission agenda item 17 at tomorrow's meeting.

Thank-you,

Sheryl Trainor

March 13, 2023

Dear Supervisor Laine,

I recently read in the Mountain Democrat that the Board of Supervisors are considering disbanding the county's Human Rights Commission (HRC) (Feb. 8, 2023). In the article, Supervisor Parlin was noted as stating that the commission was struggling. She recommended that a non-profit such as Bridging Divides take on the humanitarian mission of the commission. As a long-time resident of the county living in district 3, I would like to offer a perspective on this issue.

First, I worked for a non-profit for 24 years in this county (PRIDE & Joy/Family Connections a program that served families with infants and toddlers with disabilities). We provided quality services and were dependent on El Dorado County Office of Education and a State Regional Center for stable funding and government code to guide our actions. The point being, it was a combination of a government agency which had finances and power to support the non-profit's services. I offer that the Human Rights Commission needs to continue as part of our county programs for stable financial support and code guidance.

Bridging Divides-El Dorado was raised as a possible alternative to the HRC, however Bridging Divides-El Dorado has a different mission than the Human Rights Commission: *The mission of Bridging Divides – El Dorado is to provide resources and tools to build trust and respect, to depolarize challenging situations, to promote civil and cordial conversations, and to encourage collaboration for the well-being of all El Dorado County residents. We are available to assist any organization impartially and without bias. (www.bridgingdivides-eldorado.org)*

As a community member I value the purpose of a HRC as stated in Ordinance 5081:

2.20.1101 The purpose of the Human Rights Commission is to promote tolerance and mutual respect among all persons, and to foster peaceful relations in the interest of preserving the public peace among residents of different races, religions, national origins, and the other characteristics listed in Government Code section 11135.

I have participated in an all-day workshop in April 2022 and a couple of online workshops through Bridging Divides. Members trained in community conversations may be of assistance in continuing the discussion of what is next for the HRC, rather than disbanding the 5 year-old commission.

As a personal anecdote, I have acquaintances and friends living in and outside the county who had racist experiences in our county because they are persons of color. One friend from El Dorado Hills experienced racism by a security guard at a restaurant in the county. Another friend coming to speak at our church was warned by her sons that El Dorado County was not a safe place and insisted on accompanying her to Placerville. There are other incidences of human rights issues which have been publicized in the Mountain Democrat over the last few years.

I believe the work of a Human Rights Commission is needed in our county. Maintaining a county commission indicates this is an issue the county is **prioritizing**. Our HRC has worked with existing non-profits with community forums (NAMI, Family Resource Center, 7/19, EDCOE 4/22,

Housing El Dorado, Upper Room, 6/22), and needs to receive appropriate county financial and supervisor support. According to Ordinance 5081, the commission includes two county supervisors as part of its membership. Giving time to resolve conflicts and struggles rather than reacting by dis-banding a commission is important. I hope you will consider spending more time investigating the facts of this situation and resources for making the commission a stronger, effective body rather than giving up and disbanding the commission.

Thank-you for your engagement with this matter,

Sheryl Trainor

From: terry allen <tga8891@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 10:26 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board

You don't often get email from tga8891@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am in favor of keeping the Human Rights Commission and not abandoning this. I believe in safeguards protecting people from hate crimes, prejudice and sexual harassment. Why would a community not want this?
Thank you, Terry Allen

From: Sheryl Trainor <sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 10:09 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Letter re: BOS Mtg. 3/14/23 Agenda item 17
Attachments: Clerk of the board.docx

You don't often get email from sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Clerk,

Please see attached letter to the Board for the upcoming meeting tomorrow March 14, 2023 Item 17 on the agenda.

Thank-you for your assistance,

Sheryl Trainor

Clerk of the board: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I recently read in the Mountain Democrat that the Board of Supervisors are considering disbanding the county's Human Rights Commission (HRC) (Feb. 8, 2023). In the article, Supervisor Parlin was noted as stating that the commission was struggling. She recommended that a non-profit such as Bridging Divides take on the humanitarian mission of the commission. As a long-time resident of the county living in district 3, I would like to offer a perspective on this issue.

First, I worked for a non-profit for 24 years in this county (PRIDE & Joy/Family Connections a program that served families with infants and toddlers with disabilities). We provided quality services and were dependent on El Dorado County Office of Education and a State Regional Center for stable funding and government code to guide our actions. The point being, it was a combination of a government agency which had finances and power to support the non-profit's services. I offer that the Human Rights Commission needs to continue as part of our county programs for stable financial support and code guidance.

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I have participated in an all-day workshop in April 2022 and a couple of online workshops through Bridging Divides. Members trained in community conversations may be of assistance in continuing the discussion of what is next for the HRC, rather than disbanding the 5-year-old commission.

As a personal anecdote, I have acquaintances and friends living in and outside the county who had racist experiences in our county because they are persons of color. One friend from El Dorado Hills experienced racism by a security guard at a restaurant in the county. Another friend coming to speak at our church was warned by her sons that El Dorado County was not a safe place and insisted on accompanying her to Placerville. There are other incidences of human rights issues which have been publicized in the Mountain Democrat over the last few years.

I believe the work of a Human Rights Commission is needed in our county. Maintaining a county commission indicates this is an issue the county is **prioritizing**. Our HRC has worked with existing non-profits with community forums (NAMI, Family Resource Center, 7/19, EDCOE 4/22,

Housing El Dorado, Upper Room, 6/22), and needs to receive appropriate county financial and supervisor support. According to Ordinance 5081, the commission includes two county supervisors as part of its membership. Giving time to resolve conflicts and struggles rather than reacting by dis-banding a commission is important. I hope you will consider spending more time investigating the facts of this situation and resources for making the commission a stronger, effective body rather than giving up and disbanding the commission.

Thank-you for your engagement with this matter,

Sheryl Trainor

Sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com

From: Lorraine King <lorraine.king@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:20 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board; John Hidahl
Subject: agenda #23-0283

RE: Agenda item 23-0283

Dear Supervisors:

You five supervisors, as elected officials in our county, are public servants, and we count on you to 'Do The Right Thing' for your constituents.

Are you serving the public, as you attempt to slam through the disbanding of the Human Rights Commission? Or are you serving some other political goal that the public, your voters, may not yet be aware of?

As I understand it, the goal of the HRC is to inform and educate the public about issues concerning many of us, including marginalized and vulnerable people. If the by-laws of the commission need fine-tuning, then we can do so. When there is so much divisiveness in our county and country these days, we need MORE understanding and open mindedness, not less.

I'd like to share an experience of an acquaintance of mine. My former co-worker, who is a young black man living in Sacramento County, had a side job as an Uber driver. Late one afternoon in 2022, he picked up a passenger at the Sacramento airport and drove him to his home in Placerville. While trying to figure out how to leave Placerville, a town he wasn't familiar with, a white man started following him in an aggressive manner. At a stop sign, the white man challenged him, asking what he was doing. After hearing that he had an Uber passenger he had dropped off and was now leaving Placerville, the white man said, "That's good, son. You don't want to be here after sundown." So essentially this white man was calling Placerville a 'sundown' town; (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sundown_town provides history of that term if you are not familiar).

To no surprise, my friend has NOT returned to El Dorado County but he has relayed his frightening experience to a number of people. And to no surprise, his telling of this shameful story does NOT present an image of El Dorado County that we residents can be proud of.

I urge the Board to consider negative impacts to our county from a decision to disband the HRC. As word spreads to potential visitors that EDC is NOT a safe nor friendly place for all persons, that may discourage visitors from coming here to visit wineries and restaurants, go sightseeing, go shopping or stay in a hotel. Surely the EDC business community is not in support of you impacting their businesses with a very bad image of EDC as unwelcoming and unsafe.

I urge you to Do The Right Thing – slow down this process - and keep the HRC.

Sincerely,

Lorraine King

23 year El Dorado Hills resident

From: laraig@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:03 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Agenda #17, item 23-0283
Attachments: Letter to Supervisors EDC 314g.docx

March 13, 2022

To: CLERK OF THE BOARD EL DORADO COUNTY

Please see my attached letter to the Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County, for public comment, and to be included in the record.

Thank you,
Lara Gularte
Human Rights Commissioner El Dorado County

ATTENTION: Board of Supervisors, El Dorado County
RE: Agenda #17, item 23-0283

“The purpose of the Human Rights Commission is to promote tolerance and mutual respect among all persons, and to foster peaceful relations in the interest of preserving the public peace among residents of different races, religions, national origins, and the other characteristics listed in Government Code section 11135.”

I am deeply alarmed by the disbanding the Human Rights Commission of El Dorado County. Neither I nor the other commissioners were formally alerted to the complaints put forth by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. The completed work of the commission was presented to the BOS on November 8, 2022, and responded to by the supervisors with praise and no complaints of wrongdoing. How did this change?

It should be noted that on or around the date of January 27th, 2023, the Chair of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors presented an informal email letter to the El Dorado County Human Rights Commissioners thanking them for their service and reporting that the majority of supervisors had voted to disband the commission. While generalities were offered, there was no factual details given for disbanding, nor invitation for an opportunity to respond. The mention was made that a non-government organization, “Bridging-the-Divide,” may better conduct the commission’s mission.

Other than the above, the HRC have not received a formal letter outlining grievances that have been put forth by the BOS. Not only is this disrespectful, but unseemly for a county governing body to conduct business in this manner. Before accusing the human rights commissioners of wrongdoing, respectful communication should be made to present grievances in order for commissioners to respond. The human rights values of fairness, dignity, equality, and respect seem to be overlooked in this process of elimination.

As a retired Santa Clara County Public Employee who has worked in criminal justice, mental health, office of the public guardian, superior court, and other human service sectors, I have many years of experience providing services to disadvantaged and marginalized communities. I feel personally insulted for not being consulted, receiving secondhand hearsay, and having to check the public archives for accusations and judgements made against me as a Human Rights Commissioner for El Dorado County.

Human Rights to protect human interests (everyone’s interests), is ongoing work and a constant reminder that we are all equal. It is a guiding light for our higher selves that we may strive always to build communities with equity and for diverse human environments to be respected with dignity maintained. This is no time to eliminate the Human Rights Commission of El Dorado County, but more aptly to reinvest in this important commission. To be better, it must first exist.

Looking forward to a proper process to retain this important commission,

Lara Gularte
Human Rights Commissioner El Dorado County

From: Zoe McNevin <zmcnevin@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:38 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Disbanding the Human Rights Commission Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from zmcnevin@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a resident of El Dorado County, I am very concerned about the plan to get rid of the Human Rights Commission. I think that this type of commission is very important to help us weather the political climate and divisiveness in general of our Country and in particular of El Dorado County. The Bridging Divides Initiative is helpful but it in no way replaces the Human Rights Commission. We can't and shouldn't ignore the human rights problems in our county. Make modifications to the commission but don't close the door to working on the problems that exist here.

Zoe McNevin
El Dorado Hills

From: Katie Rutherford <katie.rutherford@me.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:04 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human rights commission

[You don't often get email from katie.rutherford@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please do not deactivate the Human Rights Commission. We need this commission in El Dorado County.

Thank you
Katie Rutherford, MD
Placerville, CA

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kelly Ahola <theriverboxes@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 9:26 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: In support of keeping Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from theriverboxes@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear El Dorado County Supervisors,

I strongly object to the disbanding of the Human Rights Commission.

As Allyson Tabor of the South Lake Tahoe Democratic Club wrote: "This County needs a Human Rights Commission. Incidents of bigotry, hate and unequal access to resources are part of what some residents experience every day. But human rights are not limited to discrimination and social interactions. Human rights include freedom from domestic violence, along with access to clean water, clean air, public health and shelter. These are all County issues we face right now."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Nolan
PO Box 932
Lotus CA 95651

From: robin center <robinmcenter@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 9:16 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from robinmcenter@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It Concerns,

I think the EDC Human Rights Commission plays a vital role in our county addressing and acknowledging that people need to have a place to go to where they can address their concerns for issues that are affecting their well-being and to show support towards people who aren't being treated with respect and fairness.

What harm can it do to offer this commission as a place to turn too?

Please keep the Commission intact!

Thank you!

Robin Center
District 4 resident

From: Madison Sites <madison.sites@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 6:25 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from madison.sites@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Salutations,

I'm disappointed to hear that there is even a consideration of disbanding the Human Rights Commission.

We're already in the midst of continued difficult times as a community.

What does it take to remind Supervisors Thomas, Parlin, and Turnboo that their role is to *serve* our community, not do more to dismantle it?

Thank you,

Madison Sites
Resident of South Lake Tahoe

From: Patrick Machado-derdowski <jmmpmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 3:48 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from jmmpmd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

El Dorado County needs to keep the Human Rights Commission. Human Rights include so many essentials that are basic to what we believe in our faith traditions and rights as Americans. If you haven't walked in other's shoes (i.e. not having **access** to the same rights), you will never understand your District/County needs.

Too many of us have become invisible because the County cannot or will not do what is needed. It is time for the Board to put those bifocals and hearing aids back on. The Board is suppose to represent **all** our voices, not just a few noisy voices, based on political agendas.

Our candidate did not win in the last Board election but we hoped and prayed our voices would still be represented. That is not been the case.

We believe the Board has lost its vision for what El Dorado County is becoming. You cannot stop the population growth happening in El Dorado County. Growth means new people with different experiences and ideas of human rights. Those new views and experiences needs to be captured.

The human rights "blindness" challenge is not going away--it is growing by the day to the point the Board will not be able to contain it. And then it will be too late.

Our understanding is that no one is getting paid for being on the commission--the monies are for administrated costs only. If the Commission is voted out-what program are you redirecting those administrative dollars?

And in my experience, eliminating programs or groups (commissions) only added more work with less effective results. I am a retired state worker who worked on state and federal programs being phased out usually because monies had been redirected elsewhere. These program took additional work and required additional fiscal appropriations. If the Commission is eliminated, we the voters will be paying for an existing problem that is only getting larger-with no resolution in sight.

Please keep the Commission and at least let them brief you on their proposals.

Jeanne Machado-Derdowski (Retired state worker)
Patrick Machado-Derdowski (Retired business owner)

From: Keith Bladen <keithbladen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 3:27 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board; BOS-District I
Subject: Human Rights Commission needed in our county

Some people who received this message don't often get email from keithbladen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I live in El Dorado Hills, have been a board member at Big Brothers/Big Sisters for 8 years, and have been a Big Brother to 5 young men. I also serve on the Commission for Youth and Families. I can tell you from first-hand experience that disbanding the Human Rights Commission in our county would be a huge mistake.

Four of the boys I was associated with lived through countless incidents of racial attacks. Two were harassed so bad at Oak Ridge High School 3 years ago they were moved to Folsom High School.

There is a lack of knowledge and understanding by some of our constituents in this county. These incidents cause major harm to kids just trying to live their lives. We should be more dynamic than just scuttling an important commission because we're lucky to be free from personally having to experience such malaise from schoolmates or neighbors.

Thanks and Regards
Keith Bladen
Commissioner, Commission for Youth and Families

From: John Garon <jcpagaron@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 2:25 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: BOS: Read before Abolishing the Human Rights Commission

Attention: Board of Supervisors

The Mountain Democrat is given to turgid prose, not irony. Yet, one of its recent editions featured 2 front-page stories: one about the BOS abolishing the Human Rights Commission and the other about a mother claiming that a local high school encouraged, by omission or commission, racial harassment of her minority daughter. BOS members only have to look around them and see that this district is very much stuck in 19th century racial habits. When I lived in South Carolina, I expected good ole' boys to fly the traitor flag from their pick up. Fifty years later, I see the same thing on the streets of Placerville, Folsom, S. Lake Tahoe, etc. There's even a house on Cedar Ravine that flies the traitor flag on a 30ft. flagpole. People feel free to celebrate treason because they know that no opprobrium will come from the governing powers. If there is something wrong with the Human Rights Commission, fix it, don't destroy it. According to the MD's story, attending HR classes on discrimination is too much of a burden on employees, so they skip it. Where is discipline? Where is accountability? In other words: are the inmates running the asylum? Where is management? My sense is that management is on the side of the employees and not of the regulations. It's no surprise that managers recruited locally will reflect the racial bias of the population at large, ...but that is not their job, which is enforcing the law and the rules.

Firms thinking of establishing local operations look at a variety of factors before deciding on a new site. Very high on the list is "racial/diversity climate". If the Board abolishes the Commission, it can kiss goodbye to new jobs coming to EDC.

From: kathleenmintert@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 2:13 PM
To: BOS-District IV; BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: BOS March 14, 2023 Agenda, Item 23-0283

Supervisors,

RE: Item 23-0283, Human Rights Commission

You thought we wouldn't notice the dissolution of the Human Rights Commission? Or perhaps that we would agree that a clear responsibility of government, the protection of its people, could be handed off to an outside private entity?

I have great respect for public servants who step up to do hard jobs. Please support the Human Rights Commission as you surely know you should.

Kathleen Mintert
Placerville

From: Elizabeth Ketelle <eketelle@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 1:54 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from eketelle@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Board of Supervisors,

It is ironic that in the best of all possible worlds, the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission would be launching an in-depth inquiry into why the Board of Supervisors wants to close it down. That seems to be a appropriate question for the Commission to address.

Elizabeth Ketelle
4388 Mt. Carmel Rd.
Garden Valley, CA 95633
530-333-0879
eketelle@hotmail.com

From: Linda Taylor <lt4fs@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 12:41 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283

[You don't often get email from lt4fs@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear BOS of EDC,

It is with great disappointment that you would be considering the disbandment of the Human Rights Committee. What is the direction of our County coming to when human rights are not considered of basic value and importance to all people? What excuse could there possibly be or need that is greater than this. Please do the right thing and look at your consciences.

Sincerely,
Linda Taylor
El Dorado Hills, CA

Sent from my iPad

From: Jamie Beutler <beutlerjamie@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 12:29 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

March 10, 2023

Dear Supervisors,

I never thought I'd have to be writing a letter in support of the Human Rights Commission in this county.

At this time in our country's history, and at this time in our county, the need has never been so great. Incidents of hate and bullying in schools are out of control, and domestic violence is at an all-time high. Hate groups once underground are now emboldened to show up at county events.

All of this is happening with the blessing of at least one supervisor, currently on our board, who has made it a priority to appoint people to various boards and commissions who are closely aligned with these hate groups.

This is not the America I grew up in; we can and must do better!

The Human Rights Commission represents a standard to which I hope we all ascribe. Human rights are written into our Constitution; the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Bill of Rights is all about **Human Rights**. Jimmy Carter was quoted as saying, "**America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense... human rights invented America.**"

Ronald Regan said this about human rights: "**Respect for human rights is not social work; it is not merely an act of compassion. It is the first obligation of government and the source of its legitimacy.**"

Putting this another way: Protecting human rights is the PURPOSE of government. To disband the HRC is truly a dereliction of duty. If we work together, we can make it work for all of us. Please rethink your decisions.

Thank you for your attention.

Jamie Beutler

Maureen Dion Perry

Larry Beutler

From: Laura Bridges-Newhouse <lauradawnbridges@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 11:18 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Do not disband the HRC

Please do not disband the Human Rights Commission. This is a critical and valuable voice for the wellbeing and prosperity of our county.

Thank you.

Laura Bridges-Newhouse, M.S.

www.bridgestransformation.com

lauradawnbridges@gmail.com

From: Paige Price <paigeprice61@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 10:59 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: In Re: Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from paigeprice61@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

El Dorado County Supervisors:

Thank you for your attention and time in this matter.

I am writing in support of keeping the Human Rights Commission alive. I have lived in El Dorado County for slightly less than two years and cannot say enough about how much I enjoy living here and getting to know the community. Changing demographics and the lingering effects of the pandemic are just two of the pressures heightening both needs and divisions in our communities. The presence of a commission educated and trained to focus on human rights questions creates leverage for sustaining a welcoming home for all who live here.

Given that the commission was only in operation for a short time before the pandemic upended all our lives (and created new human rights challenges), a decision to disband the commission seems premature. The problems and issues facing this group are complex, requiring time, training and patience to solve. Please give the commission the time and resources they need to benefit our communities and our lives.

Respectfully,

Paige Price
1277 Hidden Lake Court
Placerville, CA

From: ams33@att.net
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 10:14 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item 23-0283

To the Board of Supervisors:

El Dorado County needs a Human Rights Commission. Incidents of bigotry, hate and unequal access to resources are part of what some residents experience every day. But human rights are not limited to discrimination and social interactions. Human rights include freedom from domestic violence, along with access to clean water, clean air, public health and shelter. These are all County issues we face right now."

Respectfully,

Annette Schoonover

From: Mel Chapman <chapmanfrancais@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 9:54 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Refer to Item 23-0283

You don't often get email from chapmanfrancais@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

DO NOT dissolve the Human Rights Commission. Of all the places in CA, El Dorado county needs this. Individuals of several religions and races are mistreated and discriminated against in the county. In a recent Essay Contest, students recounted their experience in being bullied due to their race and religion and sexual orientation-- their stories are real and disturbing.

To ignore this is not excusable. Mr Turnboo, how about doing the right thing when it doesn't hurt you at all.

Mel Chapman
5041 Pathfinder Trl
Placerville, CA
95667

From: Michele Durkin <mtdurkin27@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 9:27 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: EDC Human Rights Commission

[You don't often get email from mtdurkin27@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am writing to register my support for the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission and do NOT want to see it disbanded. If there are procedural issues with how the Commission operates today those can and should be addressed. However, human rights spans many areas of life and can affect any resident of El Dorado County.

The Board should work with Commission Members to review/amend Charter as necessary; provide a mechanism for oversight and regular reporting; fund to an appropriate level; and ensure that there is visibility to issues that need to be considered in relation to the Human Rights of all citizens living in EDC.

“Don’t throw out the baby with the bath water!”

Respectfully,
Michele Durkin
El Dorado Hills

Sent from my iPhone

From: Clarissa Etter-Smith <cettersmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 8:26 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from cettersmith@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Today I am writing to ask a simple question- who would be against human rights?

Disbanding the human rights commission would be a mistake, and detrimental to the community. As the county becomes more crowded and diverse, we need to ensure that all our citizens are treated fairly. My sincere request is that the human rights commission continue its work in 2023 and beyond. Do not disband the commission .

Sincerely, Clarissa Etter Smith

--

Best, Clarissa

From: Sherri Pellegrini <sherripellegrini@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 8:22 AM
To: BOS-District II; BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from sherripellegrini@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mr. Turnboo,

I am writing to encourage you not to disband the Human Rights Commission. Now, more than ever, we need an organization to help the folks of our County who experience discrimination and hate every day of their lives. Sometimes I think we are immune from these awful, troubling times but unfortunately it lives among us every day. We need advocates for human rights, those that will stand-up and call out discrimination. We need further work on racial solidarity, equity and healing. My hope is this commission can develop human rights, education programs and resources for schools, the workplace and our community. I would be happy to serve on the commission.

Sincerely,

Sherri Pellegrini
El Dorado Hills

From: cgbraver@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 9:24 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: mar 14 meeting, item 23-128

Dear Supervisors:

Re: 23-0128

I support the motion to disband the Human Rights Commission at the March 14 meeting.

As Supervisor Thomas has pointed out, and I think most of us agree, "the objectives of supporting mutual respect and tolerance and fostering peaceful relationship in our community," is a worthy goal, but the commission as presently constituted has been ideologically driven, politicizing Social Justice issues in the service of a left wing agenda. Just one example is their using the unfortunate incident of one student calling out something rude and inappropriate at an Oak Ridge soccer match last year as an occasion to unjustly call out the entire student body and its "culture of racism," and then advocate for the inclusion of Anti-Racism and DEI bureaucracies into the EDCOE district as the appropriate solution. I was present at that Zoom meeting (where representatives of the EDCOE were also represented) and felt the analysis and recommendations of the Commission on that occasion were without nuance, without debate, without sufficient evidence, and went beyond the mission they were charged with.

The members of the Commission are decent people whose ideas reflect their sincere beliefs, and they are welcome to join any political club that advocates for these beliefs, as are we all. But the Left, nor the Right either for that matter, does not have a monopoly on defining social justice or what constitutes effective ways of helping disadvantaged people, and an unelected government commission, representing all of us in a politically diverse community, is not the place for monolithic activism on contentious issues.

thanks,

Carole Braverman
El Dorado Hills,

From: jangell@earthlink.net
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 7:21 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Cc: BOS-District IV
Subject: Re: Item 23-0283 on 3/14/23 Board of Supervisors meeting Agenda comment

Hello Clerk of the Board,

Please send my email, which addresses 3/14/23 BOS meeting, Item 23-0283, to all Supervisors.

First, I want to thank my County for choosing to show their commitment to Human Rights by having a group with that as their designated mission area visible to all who visit our county website. That in itself makes a difference in furthering human rights in our communities. I also value knowing that some of our current supervisors have chosen to serve on this all volunteer board as a further sign of this county's commitment to human rights. Please do not lose that value to all of us. **What we do not name or do not measure we do not usually do.**

Hate crimes, like domestic violence, often are not reported by victims so official crime data will always be less than their occurrence. Ensuring that our Sheriff's Office has had recent training on investigating and determining whether an incident includes a hate crime, would further the County's commitment to Human Rights. . Hate crimes are on the rise in CA and the nation so probably are here, too. School bullying data remain at about one-third having been a victim. With recent training, the Sheriff's Office could provide a speaker able to tell community members how they can help.

I also suspect that not all members of BOS have had the same expectations of our Human Rights Commission. For example, I can envision a Miwok speaker on their chosen topic might not overlap with any duties of the formal liaison between the county and their tribe. A consultation with the liaison about their scope, areas of potential conflict before topic with the speaker is firmed up could ensure that. Having helped plan bullying training when the law for schools was new, I found schools believed training and education is something they can do effectively for themselves. Dept. of Education does provide lots of resources that help.

I am glad there is such a liaison to, perhaps, facilitate better coordination between the tribe and local law enforcement on missing indigenous women, tribal victims of crimes, etc. in conjunction with the national effort. I also suspect we may have more Native American residents that are not members of our Miwok tribe than that are given that Cherokee is the tribe with more Californians than any other tribe.

Second, I believe that eliminating them is not the best solution and is at least premature. Providing staff support should be added or put in a budget and current BOS look at revisiting the ordinance and their function, mission.

Your best solution may be with more paths focused on human rights, entities partnering as appropriate, in addition to the hate crime enforcement by our Sheriff. Having the Human Rights Commission arranging for speakers, panels and/or forums—educational efforts. Then also funding non-profit agencies like Bridges, in their specialty areas, and/or Center for Nonviolent Conflict for their specialties, like bullying training, domestic violence for community engagement, responding to victims, holding reconciliation conversations between victims and perpetrators, etc. It is possible there are State or Federal grants to cover at least most of such costs.

I noticed that the Human Rights Commission in Humboldt County specifies areas where discrimination is forbidden by law as part of their function:

"Aid in eradication of discrimination in housing, employment, education, public accommodation, race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or other factors." And cite more codes (California Government Code Sections 50262, 50264, and 50265; County Ordinance Nos. 2294, 2177, 1444, 1023, 663, 572, and 530). <https://humboldt.gov/1308/Human-Rights-Commission>

Such a scope would permit targeted presentations to our realtors' association, for example, other community groups, and our agencies with housing, employment, public accommodations' responsibilities, in addition to community-wide venues.

Sincerely,

Judi Angell

Rescue

From: patandlarry pagsview.us <patandlarry@pagsview.us>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 6:07 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Regarding Item 23-0283: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from patandlarry@pagsview.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

In regard to Item 23-0283 for the coming Board of Supervisors Meeting (March 14, 2023), I am writing in support of El Dorado County's Human Rights Commission. Our county is rife with inequities, bullying, and discriminatory practices. Not only do we need the commission, I think we need it to have more teeth. I am very disappointed that my supervisor (Parlin) has voted to disband this commission. Don't we want to see improvement in people's lives; shouldn't ALL of us have equity in our human rights.

I urge the board to protect and support the County's Human Rights Commission.

Respectfully,

Pat Pagendarm

From: Margi Dunlap <marmarra9@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 4:08 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board

You don't often get email from marmarra9@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Protect the human rights commission!

From: Linda Shoemake <shoemakegastaldi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 3:36 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from shoemakegastaldi@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Clerk of the Board/County Supervisors,

In order to protect the Human Rights of all of us please do not disband the Human Rights Commission.
Our Democracy depends upon respect and fair treatment for all.

Thank you,
Linda Shoemake

From: micheld19@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 12:42 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Oppose Human Rights Commission Disbandment

You don't often get email from micheld19@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

El Dorado County Supervisors,

As a long-time resident of El Dorado County, I am submitting in writing that I strongly oppose disbanding the Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights commission is important to the community to address the needs of a broad spectrum of people in the County.

The Human Rights Commission can work to ensure there is fair application of the laws that govern us, the equitable distribution of resources and to establish a productive partnership with everyone in the community.

The El Dorado Human Rights Commission can be the North star of El Dorado County displaying community values supporting the importance of the fundamental protections attributed to human dignity, humanity, needs such as food, housing, privacy, personal safety and freedoms that are afforded to the cohesive participation in society.

The Human Rights Commission is a benefit to everyone in the community is extremely valuable component to creating an inclusive society.

Regards,

Michel Brandt

*Michel Brandt, MBA
Micheld19@yahoo.com
916-947-5214 Mobile
916-939-7721 Home*

From: Jamie Beutler <beutlerjamie@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 12:16 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights Commission

Dear Supervisors,

I never thought I'd have to be writing a letter in support of the Human Rights Commission in this county. At this time in our country's history, and at this time in our county, the need has never been so great. Incidences of hate, and bullying in the schools are out of control. Domestic Violence is at an all time high. Hate groups that were once underground are now emboldened to show up at county events. And all this is happening with the blessing of at least one supervisor, currently on our board, who has made it a priority to appointment people to various boards and commissions who are closely aligned with these hate groups. This is not the America I grew up in. We can do better!

The Human Rights Commission represents a standard to which, I hope, we all ascribe. Human Rights are written into our Constitution; the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. The Bill of Rights is all about human rights. Indeed, Jimmy Carter once said, "America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense human rights invented America."

And Ronald Regan said this about human rights: "Respect for human rights is not social work; it is not merely an act of compassion. **It is the first obligation of government and the source of its legitimacy.**"

Putting this another way: Protecting human rights is the PURPOSE of government. To disband the HRC is truly a dereliction of duty. If we work together, we can make it work for all of us. Please rethink your decisions.

Thank you for your attention.

Jamie Beutler

From: patty wilson <patty.wilson5@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 11:08 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Re: Human Rights Commission

Dear Supervisors~

I am appalled at the possibility of disbanding the Human Rights Commission. I have lived and worked in EDC for 50 years. The hard fact is that bigotry and hate have always been part of our collective community. It is actually much better now than it was 50 years ago but we still have a long way to go.

This seems a poor decision at a time when hate crimes and racism are on the rise all over the world. Do you somehow feel that it is not a problem here? It is, and always has been, a problem here. Just recently I was at a medical appointment with a person who has only lived in this county about a year. We were talking about how conservative it is... which in itself is not a negative thing. She said what shocked and bothered her the most was the "casual racism" she experienced here.... residents seem to feel it is OK to make racists comments and observations in a public setting such as a medical site.

Please reconsider your decision and support the Human Rights Commission. It was established for a reason and that reason is ongoing. I know you want the best for our community.

Thank you,

Patty Wilson 95619

From: Aiko Akers <aiko.akers@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 10:27 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Opposition to Disbanding the EDC Human Rights Commission (Refer to Item 23-0283)

You don't often get email from aiko.akers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed disbanding of the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission. While we can hope and work for a world free from human rights violations, we are not yet there. We must maintain our democratic institutions that protect our constitutional and human rights. As the popular bumper sticker notes, "Freedom isn't free." We need to be vigilant in protecting our freedoms and citizen commissions like the Human Rights Commission are part of this. Sadly, in our county there are instances of exploitation, sex trafficking, human trafficking, discrimination, wage theft, and many other violations of people's human and civil rights.

The members of the Board of Supervisors took an oath of office to uphold the constitutions of the United States and the state of California. Part of this oath includes ensuring the constitutional rights of the citizens who voted for you are protected. Those who would traffic people through our county surely count as "domestic enemies" whom you have sworn to protect against. Uphold your oath and continue to protect the citizens and people of this county. Do not disband the Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,
Aiko Akers
Lotus, El Dorado County, California

From: Diana Stauffer <dianalynnstauffer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 10:08 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Human Rights

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Please, I urge you not to disband the Human Rights Commission. The county needs it more than ever. You have to see that it is necessary for such a well known racist county. People who think of El Dorado County, unfortunately, automatically, think of its racism.
Diana Stauffer

--
Diana Stauffer

"Peace cannot be kept by force, but can only be achieved through understanding" Albert Einstein

From: Melinda Velasco <velamar333@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 9:58 AM
To: BOS-District III; BOS-District I; BOS-District II; BOS-District IV; BOS-District V; BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Do not Disband the Human Rights Commission- COMMISSION HISTORY
Attachments: Letter to BOS 3-11-23.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from velamar333@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Re: Agenda Item 17 (23-0283)

Please include the attached PDF in Public Comments on Item 17, 23-0283

Thank you,

Melinda Velasco

March 11, 2023

Dear Supervisors,

Our Human Rights Commission was established in March, 2018 by Supervisors Novasel and Frentzen with the goal to *promote tolerance and mutual respect between all persons, and to promote positive human relationships for the purpose of ensuring public peace, health, safety and the general welfare.*

To me, Human Rights expand even further. In El Dorado County, Human Rights Issues include: *Access to housing after the Caldor fire, freedom from domestic violence, access to water, access to food, shelter, medical care and safety for our elderly community members, access to clean air for all residents (particularly during fire season), access to food, shelter and medical treatment for unhoused people, access to healthy rivers, forests and land, and freedom from persecution for vulnerable groups of people (identified in CA State Government Code Title 5, Article 10, 50260-65).*

Clearly, the work and infrastructure needed to support human rights is enormous. Creating a county Human Rights Commission is just one step in supporting human rights, but it is an important one. By establishing a Human Rights Commission, a county demonstrates that it prioritizes its people. I am proud that El Dorado County chose to create a Human Rights Commission.

Despite the 18 hour/ year time allocation granted by the Board for the commission, along with a global pandemic, the commission was active and made positive and impactful contributions to the community. At the January 24, 2023 BOS meeting when the issue of disbanding the commission arose, one Supervisor said, "I personally can't articulate what this commission has done to help the Board or the county." In this letter I would like to offer, to the best of my ability, information on what the Human Rights Commission has been doing for the Board and our county since it began.

March 7, 2017

(Item 26, File 17-0255) the Board adopted Resolution 048-2017 Promoting Civility, Respect, Tolerance, and Human Rights and formed an ad hoc committee consisting solely of Supervisors Novasel and Frentzen to work with staff on the potential establishment of a Civil/Human Rights commission. The purpose of the commission is to promote tolerance and mutual respect between all persons, and to promote positive human relationships for the purpose of ensuring public peace, health, safety and the general welfare.

March 20, 2018

The Human Rights Commission was established by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (Ordinance 5081)

When the Human Rights Commission began, newly appointed commissioners were told they would be meeting 18 hours/ year

2018- 2019

The Human Rights Commission established "Purpose", "Vision Statement," and "Bylaws." Commissioners underwent training including Brown Act Training. Commissioners engaged in networking and outreach. HRC arranged presentations to HRC from the Sheriff's HOT Team, New

Morning Youth and Family Services, the Director of the Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District, the County Council and others.

In early 2019, Commissioners Simpkin, Gularte and Supervisor Novasel created an ad hoc committee to create a Public Human Rights Forum. They met regularly through July, 2019.

July 22, 2019: EDC Public Human Rights Forum

County stakeholders representing vulnerable populations were invited to share thoughts on the most pressing, local, human rights-related needs. Over a dozen organizations were represented.

Speakers included:

Juline Aguilar, *NAMI* (topic: mental illness), Randy Peshon, *Sheriff's Dept* (Homeless Outreach Team), Peter Brown, *The Lighted Candle* (topic: unhoused people), Lisbeth Powell, *Commission on Aging* (topic: seniors /aging), Michael Saunders, *Civil Rights Now*, (topic: civil rights), Dale Wallerstein, *Temple Kol Shalom* (topic: religious freedom), Teri Monterosso, *EDC Public Defender* (topic: mentally ill in the criminal justice system), Ed Manansala, *EDC Office of Education* (topic: vulnerable student populations), Bill Martinez, *Family Resource Center* (topic: immigration/minorities), Bill Roby, *El Dorado Community Foundation* (topic: 2020 Census)

2020

HRC began developing a "Strategic Plan." Commissioners continued local outreach, networking and research. Commissioner Susan Simpkin presented data on county population groups, needs met, needs unmet, and challenges.

May (?) 2020

HRC was placed on hiatus during Covid

June 22, 2020

Master Report, File Number 20-0840: *"Supervisor Parlin recommending to the Board consider providing direction to the Human Rights Commission to require that the Commission update its bylaws with language to create a formal process for issues brought before them before putting issues on their agenda."*

Supervisor Parlin proposed two alternatives:

1. To put the Commission on hiatus and designate an ad hoc committee of two Supervisors to create a process for the Commission, or,
2. To disband the Commission and rely on established services and organizations to meet the Human Rights needs of the County.

September 28, 2020

HRC began meeting again. In response to Supervisor Parlin's request, the commission requested funding for training in Implicit Bias and Good Governance for the Human Rights Commissioners.

December 8, 2020

The Board denied funding to HRC for Training. (12-8-20 Ordinance 5134, Item 20-1447)

The Board of Supervisors redlined Commission responsibilities and changed bylaws. (12-8-20 Ordinance 5137-Redline). Ordinance no. 5134 was adopted. 2.20.1108 C. was changed by deleting this responsibility of the Commission : *"C. To inquire into incidents of tension and conflict among or between people, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or any other factors, and to take action by means of conciliation, conference and persuasion to alleviate those tensions and conflict."*

The BOS also redlined the terms of the commission by deleting Sec. 2.20.1112. - Initial term of Commission.

"The Board seeks to ensure the Commission functions to its designed purpose. From the effective date of ordinance 5081 (April 20, 2018), the Board hereby establishes a two-year evaluation term for the Commission. The Commission shall become inoperative two years from the effective the date of ordinance 5081 unless extended by the Board at a regular meeting and pursuant to Government Code § 25120 et seq."

2021

Commissioners attempted to address the needs of the Council and community while working with County Supervisors. Covid took a toll on the county but Commissioners continued to meet. HRC continued to engage in outreach and planning for educational presentations. Lara Gularte chaired a discussion on "Implicit Bias." Sue Novasel submitted a report on Implicit Bias on October 25, 2021.

November, 2021

HRC began developing a plan to present a forum on homelessness in the county.

January 3, 2022

HRC created an ad hoc committee composed of Commissioner Gularte and Supervisor Novasel, and chaired by Commissioner Carr, to design and implement a public forum on the homeless. Development of the forum continued through June.

Commissioners began implementation of education on designated monthly observances (such as Native American Heritage month, Black History Month, etc.) at each public, monthly meeting. Commissioners traded responsibilities.

April 25, 2022

HRC Meeting featured Guest Speakers Ed Manansala (El Dorado County Superintendent of schools), Chris Moore (El Dorado County Assistant Superintendent of Schools), and Aaron Palm (Principal of Oakridge High School). Discussion emphasized how schools are addressing instances of bullying and discrimination both at sites and at the district level.

May 23, 2022

HRC Meeting featured Guest Speaker and Civil Rights Attorney, Mark Merin. Mr. Merin presented a talk on the difference between Civil Rights and Human Rights.

June 13, 2022: Forum: "A Day in the Life of a Homeless Person"

This forum centered on addressing the needs of the unhoused residents of the County. About a dozen stakeholders were invited to speak and to provide resources to the community.

Speakers included:

Captain Salkenstein (*EDC Sheriff Homeless Outreach Team*), Cheyenne Purrington (*Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless*), Margaret Lewis (*El Dorado Opportunity Knocks, Continuum of Care*), Maureen Dion-Perry (*Housing El Dorado*), Ron Marlette (*Upper Room Dining Hall*), and several members of the unhoused community.

60 county residents attended the forum and over 100 Survey Monkey responses were collected. Commissioner Carr developed strong relationships with stakeholders and is still in contact with a number of them.

August 22, 2022

Commissioners Simpkin and Gularte recommended a Speaker Series. Elena De Lacy, Executive Director of the American River Conservancy, was posited as a possible speaker to discuss "How Human Rights and the Rights of Nature Intersect." Supervisor Hidahl discussed working with the interfaith community.

September, 2022

Commissioners continued developing the Speaker Series. Supervisor Hidahl discussed the possibility of including representatives of local tribes and school representatives.

September (?), 2022

Commissioners Carr and Valicenti attended CA Attorney General Rob Bonta's webinar work group on Hatred Against the AAPI Community. This working group included recommendations regarding how to deal with anti-AAPI hate and a list of resources that are now available to the public.

October 24, 2022/ November 8, 2022

Report on the "A Day in the Life of a Homeless Person" was presented to the BOS.

November 28, 2022

Commissioners Carr and Valicenti reported on California Resources to Address Hate Crimes webinar.

Commissioners Simpkin, Gularte and Valicenti recommended a proposal for the 2023 speaker series plan.

Proposed 2023 Speaker Series

“Walk a Mile in My Shoes”

TOPIC	COLLABORATIVE PARTNER	POINT PERSON
LGBTQ Youth	New Morning	Susan
Local Miwok Tribe	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	John
Democratizing Education	Office of Education	Lara
Environmental Justice	American River Conservancy	Robin

I hope that this information provides information about how a small group of dedicated people with limited resources has created positive change in support of human rights for El Dorado County.

I request you **vote against disbanding the Human Rights Commission** because, in all truth, **the commission offers hope to people in our county.**

Thank you,

Melinda Velasco (District 3)

From: Gale Hesselgesser <galerespect@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 4:13 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Agenda item 23-0283

February 10, 2023

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

To the Board:

In 2018 I was delighted to learn that the Board of Supervisors had adopted an ordinance establishing a Human Rights Council. Having lived here over 40 years, I have been aware of (and even experienced) occasional acts of bullying myself. (My "sin" is that I am old.) Individuals and groups also harass people targeted for a variety of reasons. (race, appearance, address, ability to defend themselves.) These actions usually fall below the level of chargeable crimes, but they create an atmosphere of intimidation and unease. Some even rise to the level of physical damage to the victims...or the victims are afraid to place charges for fear of retribution. This is happening in schools, homes, even on the public streets.

I thought a commission on human rights is just what we need to address uncharged or unchargeable acts of cruelty.

I was sorely disappointed when, in 2020 the Board, led by one supervisor, decided to delete actually addressing acts of harassment, racial malice, or simple intimidation, from the HRC's bylaws.

I thought, "Ugh! The Board wants to water it down so they can pretend that everything's fine."

Please allow the Human Rights Commission to continue. They have done good work, especially facilitating getting services to the homeless. They can do even more if you support them rather than lob obstacles in their way... or try to pass them off to some non-profit whose priorities are elsewhere.

Yours truly,

Gale Hesselgesser

From: Les Francis <les_francis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 4:00 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: FW: Protesting Board's Plans to abolish Human Rights Commission

You don't often get email from les_francis@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Les Francis](#)
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:24 PM
To: bosthree@edcgov.us
Cc: [Les Francis](#)
Subject: Protesting Board's Plans to abolish Human Rights Commission

Dear Supervisor Thomas,

I attempted to send an email earlier today, but I am not sure if it transmitted; so, I am making a second effort. By the way, I sent you an email in early February (slightly more than a month ago), but have yet to receive a reply. I am a constituent (Camino), and I voted for you. To say that I am disappointed in your posture vis-à-vis the HRC is an understatement. I have generally viewed you as a moderately conservative leader, one not driven by ideology but rather by principle. Frankly, I fear that your position on this issue belies that image.

Before I get to the specifics of my argument I ask you to consider the words of my former boss, President Jimmy Carter, who has pointed out that **“America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, it is the other way around.”** That is a powerful sentiment, and it is extremely relevant to the current debate.

My key points are as follows:

- Human rights are under assault around the globe. El Dorado County should be a bulwark against such assaults, not an enabler;
- There have been a number of human rights abuses in El Dorado County over the past few years; citizens should have an official channel through which to voice concerns about such abuses;
- Protection of human rights is a legitimate and necessary function of government; shifting that responsibility to a non-profit entity is a fig leaf that doesn't provide the cover or protection you think it will;
- We should want to make El Dorado County a welcoming community to all people, not a hostile one;

- This is a time for political courage, not bowing to extremists' agendas.

I truly hope you and your colleagues will consider my view with the same seriousness with which it is offered.

Thank you.

Les Francis
Camino

[Mail](#) for Windows