

From: ROBERT & Margie READ <bread1@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 4:24 PM
To: BOS-District I; BOS-District III; BOS-District V; BOS-District IV; BOS-District II; BOS-Clerk of the Board
Cc: ROBERT & Margie READ
Subject: Comment on Agenda Item 23-0128, January 23 meeting

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS);

I write this letter because I have been told that you will be discussing the County Human Rights Commission at this upcoming BOS meeting on Tuesday. It is not clear what you will be discussing, but since I will be unable to attend the meeting, I thought I would comment in writing on how I value the Commission. Please include this letter in the official record for the Tuesday meeting.

I moved here 41 years ago as a single mother of two young girls. I have loved El Dorado County and it has treated us well. Yet, over time I have been very aware of some incidents that bespeak of hatred for those that are different in race, creed, and color. Some examples:

1. Good people in the community told me about a physician that had moved into the county before I who was a kind man and competent medic. But he felt it necessary to take his family and move away after too much racist harassment took place. These included the burning of a cross on his front yard. He was black.
2. It was a national tragedy when George Floyd was murdered and people across the country were in grief. The City Police Department allowed a small ceremony and art display to take place in the empty lot next to the department. This was for artists, poets and speakers to express their grief. It was a lovely and peaceful event with a small ceremony. Shockingly, several cars zoomed by shouting hateful words, shaking their fists and screeching their tires. And when some of the work was left up overnight it was vandalized and stolen. To maintain peace, the art display was later moved indoors to Town Hall. But while the display was being set up several angry people gathered at the door, shouting their intimidation.
3. During COVID businesses closed and people were laid off. Many were ineligible for unemployment benefits. A community table was organized in Placerville to help these individuals (mostly people of color) with pantry necessities – food, masks and cleaning items. This was an enormously important effort by good-hearted volunteers, supported by generous donors. Yet, when the gatherings for food pick-up would take place, it was not unusual for the same shouting of angry, racist profanities from cars that zoomed past the Community Tables in the parking lot.
4. More and more I notice a dominance of white Christianity that is becoming part of businesses, schools, local governments and publicly-funded events. This is disconcerting, because it does disenfranchise a significant percentage of our population, including me.

These are only some occurrences and certainly not the worst, but they certainly point to the need for attention and correction where possible. This is why I had been grateful that the County created the Human Rights Commission as some sort of mechanism to work with law enforcement and

government and protect our rights. Please continue to support that Commission and provide it with whatever it needs to guide this County safely for everyone.

Regards,

Margie Lopez Read
Placerville Resident

From: laralg@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 9:59 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Agenda #37, item 23-0128
Attachments: Letter to Supervisors.docx; UN_UniversalDeclarationOfHumanRights_v.2.pdf

RE: Agenda item #37, item 23-0128
FROM: Lara Gularte, El Dorado County Human Rights Commissioner

See attached letter to each El Dorado County Supervisor and a copy of the Universal Human Rights.
Please distribute to each supervisor and interested parties.
Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,
Lara Gularte
El Dorado County Human Rights Commissioner

January 23, 2023

ATTENTION: Board of Supervisors El Dorado County

RE: Agenda #37, item 23-0128

TITLE: 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.

I noticed the above item on the Board of Supervisor's agenda, and I would like to speak to the purpose and mission of the El Dorado County Human Rights Commission. I try to be informed of the ongoing agendas as I am not present on Tuesdays to attend BOS meetings. I am a teaching artist at Mule Creek State Prison where I have worked in the arts and corrections program for five years. While I have not received formal notice and details regarding item 23-0128, as a Human Rights Commissioner, I wish to make the following statement.

It is to El Dorado County's favor to have established a Human Rights Commission as not all counties in the state of California have one. Thank you for your forward thinking as supervisors for our county. In attachments to this agenda item, you will see the history and Ordinance No. 5134 where both the purpose of the human rights commission is described and the commission's responsibility. Not listed is the mission statement: "To promote human rights for all people in El Dorado County and appreciate our community's diversity by means of education, advocacy, and action."

Human Rights are important values to keep our society fair and just for all. I have attached a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for your information. This Declaration is said to be the most translated document in the world. As leaders you represent to our citizens and the outside world that in El Dorado County human rights counts. For this reason, I rely on you to insure that the Human Rights Commission will continue to move forward as a symbol and a means of bringing community together. A second supervisor would be welcomed to join us. If this is not possible, consider changing the bylaws to appoint one supervisor instead of two. The HRC has just begun to make plans for 2023, and we have much work to do as we move forward.

Eleanor Roosevelt considered her work on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be her most important accomplishment.

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seek equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Thank you for letting our citizens and the world know that El Dorado County stands tall for Human Rights,

Lara Gularte

El Dorado County Human Rights Commissioner

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The UDHR was adopted by the newly established United Nations on 10 December 1948, in response to the "barbarous acts which [...] outraged the conscience of mankind" during the Second World War. Its adoption recognized human rights to be the foundation for freedom, justice and peace.

Today, the Declaration remains a living document. It is the most translated document in the world.



Article 1 - All human beings are free and equal

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2 - No discrimination

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs.

Article 3 - Right to life

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4 - No slavery

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5 - No torture and inhuman treatment

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6 - Same right to use law

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7 - Equal before the law

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8 - Right to treated fair by court

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9 - No unfair detainment

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile

Article 10 - Right to trial

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11 - Innocent until proved guilty

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12 - Right to privacy

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13 - Freedom to movement and residence

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14 - Right to asylum

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15 - Right to nationality

Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality

Article 16 - Rights to marry and have family

Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17 - Right to own things

Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18 - Freedom of thought and religion

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19 - Freedom of opinion and expression

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20 - Right to assemble

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21 - Right to democracy

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22 - Right to social security

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23 - Right to work

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24 - Right to rest and holiday

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25 - Right of social service

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26 - Right to education

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27 - Right of cultural and art

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28 - Freedom around the world

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29 - Subject to law

Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

Article 30 - Human rights can't be taken away

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

From: Rowena Pelczynski <rpelczyn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:12 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: 23 - 0128

Clerk of the Board

It is my understanding the the BOS is considering disbanding the EDC Human Rights Commission. I am strongly against such an action. The HRC is our conscience and keeps us on the right side of humanity. Please do not disband!!!

Rowena Pelczynski
1815 Cold Springs Rd
Placerville