Public Comment #33

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Board of Supervisors meeting Nov 17 Agenda Item 33

Sarah Saunders <cmyst123@gmail.com>
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 11:13 AM

Dear Supervisors;
I needed to attend a work meeting at 11:30am and was unable to continue listening/monitoring the meeting in order to ask to make public comments.
My comment is in regard to Agenda Item #33, on the Human Rights Commission:

My name is Sarah Saunders and I have lived in Cool for over 10 years. I work as an RN, and one of the most important aspects of my job is ADVOCACY on behalf of patients who often feel confused, powerless and voiceless during a time of vulnerability, when they are dealing with matters of health impacting their well-being and security.
As a person experienced with advocacy, these are my concerns on the the Human Rights Commission Proposed Ordinance, El Dorado County Code of Ordinances 2.20.1100 - Redline Version from Prior Ordinance 5099:

The summary of the proposed ordinance states that the purpose of the proposed ordinance is to promote tolerance and mutual respect among all persons, and to foster peaceful relations among residents of different races, religions, national origins and "the other characteristics listed in Government Code section 11135".

The proposed removal of Sec. 2.20.1108 - C.- eliminates the purpose of the Human Rights Commission, which is to act as an advocate in the interest of those residents in the minority to address specific incidents of conflict and tension, in an effort to do exactly what the purpose of the proposed ordinance states.

Education, meetings, and opening "new opportunities into community life" can be, and are, being promoted within many different county institutions: public schools, houses of worship, civic organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. Of course the Human Rights Commission should engage in these activities and encourage them.

But none of those institutions and organizations have the mandate to address specific incidents that occur despite our best intentions; "incidents", which do not meet the level of a criminal offense, but which cause distress and ill-will among residents. If we do not acknowledge these incidents and inquire into them, we will not learn from them and we will not have the information and tools we need to be able to work with other community institutions to educate and open new opportunities. The Human Rights Commission is the only body that has that mandate, that responsibility of ADVOCACY on behalf of those who feel powerless and voiceless in a time of vulnerability.

We should not take this role away from the Human Rights Commission at the insistence of those who feel uncomfortable with the truth that incidents of human rights abuses occur in our county.

As an RN, I know that acknowledging disease is the first step towards curing it, and it can be a very uncomfortable and challenging journey but it is necessary.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Saunders

CNA/NNU/NNOC Nurse Representative
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HRC changes

1 message

Julie Robinson <injoyjulie@yahoo.com>   Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 11:25 AM
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

I believe by removing paragraph C you are taking away the HOW of the human rights commission.

The inquiries provide a venue for people who have suffered human Rights injustices to speak and be heard.

As you know post apartheid South Africa had huge challenges of how to heal and to move forward together.

Archbishop Tutus "Truth and reconciliation commission" went town to town giving anyone who wanted to speak of the injustices they had suffered an opportunity to be heard and have it documented. It was very successful as after acknowledgement, traumatized people are more able to shift to forgiveness.

For our HRC to be of value we need to keep "the how"- the inquiry.

I do not support redlining C as it will render the HRC as ineffectual.

Agenda item 33

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To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 4:08 PM

Hello, I had hoped to speak on Agenda item 33 today and have been at my computer for most of the day waiting. However, due to a late afternoon appointment, I will not be present to address you on this matter.

Proposed Ordinance, El Dorado County Code of Ordinances, 2.20 1100   Redline Version from Ordinance 5099

I am Lara Gularte, Human Rights Commissioner of El Dorado County. The Human Rights Commission was appointed by supervisors of the county to serve the community by promoting human rights for all people in the County and to appreciate our community's diversity by means of education, advocacy, and action. I believe the HRC's vision statement advocates for necessary policy changes to better protect human rights at the local, state and federal levels. Since the Human Rights Commission was created its existence is to serve all the citizens of this county, and that the citizens should have some say in any changes the BOS deems necessary. In this way Transparency is important. The Board of Supervisors have not made it easy for outreach on important changes in the HRC. This is evident in today's agenda item #33 which many citizens had not been made aware of. As an HRC commissioner, I feel the BOS has ignored and marginalized my input on important Human Rights considerations. For instance, I was only made aware of today's agenda item #33 last night by a concerned citizen. It was late last night that by email I informed other commissioners who appeared to not be aware as well and inviting them to check the agenda item and details listed for today's meeting.

    Human Rights should not be complicated and is not a revolutionary idea. To promote and support our differences, to create an environment of respect and connection should be our goal and can be achieved by working together with the citizens and the leaders of our county. Let's do it!

Lara Gularte

Human Rights Commissioner, El Dorado County