

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

[www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov)

## AGENDA

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will be conducted by teleconference and there will be no in-person public access to the meeting location.

- To view/listen/participate in the meeting live, please use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84330057025?pwd=VzE5Vkw4Z3VqQzM5VVsS1sdHJMUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 3005 7025

Passcode: 505379

Or Call: +1 669 900 6833

- Written public comment may also be submitted to [cityclerk@palmspringsca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@palmspringsca.gov). Transmittal prior to the meeting is required. Any correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Board/Commission as soon as practicable and retained for the official record.
- The meeting will be recorded and the audio file will be available from the Office of the City Clerk and will be posted on the City's YouTube channel, as soon as practicable.

Monday  
September 14, 2020



5:30 PM Regular Meeting

Terrie Andrade  
Harold Ames  
Denise Chappell, Vice Chair

Ron deHarte, Chair  
Glenn Flood  
Peter Owen

Edwin Ramoran  
Donna Shepherd  
Solange Signoret

Staff Liaison  
Jay Virata, Director  
Community & Economic Development

*City of Palm Springs Mission Statement: Palm Springs is an inclusive world-class city dedicated to providing excellent and responsive public services to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.*

Please silence electronic devices.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. MISSION STATEMENT:

*"The Mission of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission is to promote and protect the diversity of our community and to improve human relations through education and community awareness."*

*Goals:*

- *To develop community education programs;*
- *To investigate and mediate instances of discrimination of*

- groups or individuals;*
- *To bring persons and groups together in common support of human rights issues;*
- *To acquire the fiscal and human resources necessary to support and accomplish the work of the Commission;*
- *To provide management and coordination for the Commission;*
- *To promote diversity through the appointment of candidates to all city boards and commissions to proportionately reflect the diversity of the population of the City of Palm Springs;*
- *The Commission and each Committee shall develop goals and objectives annually, for adoption by the commission;*
- *The Commission shall work closely with the Mayor, City Council, and City Cabinet and with all other City Commissions and Boards in joint endeavors that support the Commission's mission statement and City's goals and objectives.*

3. QUORUM:

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

This time has been set aside for members of the public to address the Human Rights Commission on agenda items; and items of general interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Three (3) minutes is allowed for each speaker. Although the Commission values your comments, pursuant to the Brown Act, it generally cannot take any action on items not listed on the posted agenda. Commissioners will not enter into discussion with speakers, but during Commission Comments, may refer the matter to staff for report and recommendation at a future Commission meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 13, 2020

6. COMMISSIONER, STAFF AND STUDENT COMMENTS:

7. PRESENTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS:

A. None

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- A. Committees – Chair deHarte and Vice Chair Chappell
  - Community Relations Committee/Budget/Personnel Committee
    - a. PSPD LGBT Outreach Committee (deHarte)
    - b. Master Calendar
    - c. Main Street (deHarte)
    - d. Finance (Ames) - Budget Attached
    - e. Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs

Cultural Affairs Committee

- a. Community Service Awards (deHarte, Chappell, Ames)
- b. Desert Highland Gateway Estates Community Association (Andrade, Flood)

Seniors/People with Disabilities Veterans Affairs Committee

- a. Veterans issues (Flood)

Youth/Education Affairs Committee

- a. Student Representatives (Chappell)

Executive Committee

Commission Development/Mediation Committee

- a. Mediation (Andrade)
- b. Retreat (Chappell, deHarte)

B. Committee Assignments

- a. Equity and Social Justice Committee

C. Communications & Outreach Guidelines

D. Renaming of Streets

E. Request to Discuss 'Change.org' Petition to Relocate Frank Bogart Statue

F. Topical Newsworthy Items

9. DAY, TIME AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT HRC MEETING:

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

11. ADJOURNMENT: The Commission will adjourn to an adjourned regular meeting Monday, October 12, 2020 5:30 p.m. via teleconference.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Department of Community & Economic Development, (760) 323-8321, TDD (760) 864-9527, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5 the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Jay Virata, Director, Community & Economic Development, City of Palm Springs, California, certify this Agenda was posted on or before 6:00 p.m. on Thursday September 10, 2020, as required by established policies and procedures. Pursuant to the Government Code Section 54957.5, the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the public meeting of the Human Rights Commission is the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, at 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

  
Jay Virata, Director  
Community & Economic Development

**Human Rights Commission  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



FOR APPROVAL

**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting**

Monday, July 13, 2020  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

FY 2020/2021

COMMISSIONER	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Terri Andrade	X											
Harold Ames	X											
Denise Chappell, Vice Chair	X											
Ron deHarte, Chair	X											
Glenn Flood	X											
Peter Owen	X											
Edwin Ramoran	X											
Donna Shepherd	X											

X = Present  
E = Excused Absence  
U = Unexcused Absence

Other Staff Present:  
Jay Virata, Community and Economic Development Director

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chair deHarte called the meeting to order at 5:32 P.M. and made introductory comments regarding Commission meetings, the health crisis, and social/racial justice issues that have taken forefront. A special shout out was made to the rallies and gatherings in the community following the murder of George Floyd, such as the rally organized by Young Youth Advocates that was labeled “Enough is Enough” at Ruth Hardy Park on June 6, 2020.

**Commissioner Andrade joined the meeting at 5:35p.m.**

- MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission statement and goals of the Human Rights Commission was read by Commissioner Owen and Ramoran.
- QUORUM:** Staff Liaison Mr. Virata announced that a quorum was present.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS:**  
Mr. David Weiner, Palm Springs Resident, presented his petition that addresses relocating the statue of Mayor Frank Bogart from the front of Palm Springs City Hall to a more appropriate place. The petition with over 2,100 signatures in support can be found at [change.org](http://change.org).
- COMMISSIONER, STAFF AND STUDENT COMMENTS:**  
Chair deHarte welcomed Commissioners Owen, Ramoran and Shepherd to their first meeting of their term with the Human Rights Commission, and each new Commissioner shared information about their background.  
  
Chair deHarte – Acknowledged Commissioner Ames for his diligent efforts and leadership in putting together a proposal for a resolution that would help reduce the risk of fraud and misuse of stimulus monies. However, the resolution was not able to move forward due to matters of jurisdiction.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** March 9, 2020

Mr. Virata – Stated Commissioners may not vote on past minutes if they were not present for the meeting.

**MOTION:** By Vice Chair Chappell, Second by Commissioner Flood to approve the minutes of Monday, March 9, 2020, as presented. Motion carries 5 – 0 (*Commissioners Owen, Shepherd and Ramoran were not present for the March 9, 2020 meeting and were not sworn Commissioners at that time, unable to vote*)

Chair deHarte – Identified they had not finished with Agenda Item 5. Therefore, the meeting continued with Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Andrade – Welcomed everybody back.

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**A. Committees – Chair deHarte and Vice Chair Chappell**

Chair deHarte – Stated Commissioners may report on any subcommittee/committee updates at this time.

**Community Relations Committee/Budget/Personnel Committee**

**a. PSPD LGBT Outreach Committee (deHarte)** – Chair deHarte – Reported on the following statistics: In June, four incidents were reported and investigated by the police department. On July 7, the police were called to the James O Jesse Desert Highland Unity Center where several walls of the building had been spray-painted with graffiti, a portion of which was directed towards the LGBT Community. A person was arrested for felony vandalism, misdemeanor hate crime, and misdemeanor possession of an unloaded firearm and misdemeanor possession of a concealed dagger.

**b. Master Calendar** Chair deHarte – Invited new Commissioners to serve on the Master Calendar Subcommittee if interested. It currently remains vacant.

**c. Main Street (deHarte)** No Report.

**d. Finance (Randolph)**

Commissioner Ames – Commented on the Commission budget and suggested the Commission re-evaluate financials, based on current real-world conditions. He further welcomed any new Commissioner who is interested in joining him on the subcommittee.

Chair deHarte – Commented on the Commission budget and proposed to identify subcommittees to new Commissioners and fill any vacancies at the next meeting.

Mr. Virata to confirm the approved City Council Human Rights Commission Budget for the FY 2021 cycle at the request of Chair deHarte and Vice Chair Chappell.

**e. Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs** - No Report.

**Cultural Affairs Committee**

**a. Film Screening (Randolph, Andrade)**

Vice Chair Chappell – Commented on the film screening event and requisite charges for films.

Committee Commissioner Andrade – Supported continuation of the film-screening legacy, and questioned when the opportunity would arise to achieve numbers needed to get a return on investment.

Chair deHarte – Invited the subcommittee to bring forward an updated plan for outreach via virtual means due to COVID-19 conditions.

**b. Community Service Awards (deHarte, Chappell, Ames)**

Chair deHarte – Explained the Community Service Awards timeline. The subcommittee members confirmed interest to serve once again for the current year. The subcommittee will be meeting in September/October and will then provide an update.

**c. Desert Highland Gateway Estates Community Association (Andrade, Flood)**

Commissioner Flood - Will follow-up with the Association on the recent vandalism and graffiti incident.

**Seniors/People with Disabilities Veterans Affairs Committee**

**a. Veterans issues (Flood) –**

Commissioner Flood – Announced the Department of Veterans Affairs has taken steps to streamline veterans access to medical care during the coronavirus pandemic, by creating a tool for veterans to screen via text. For more information visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

**Youth/Education Affairs Committee**

**a. Student Representatives (Chappell)**

Chair deHarte – Recapped that the Commission voted and approved Solange Signoret to serve as a student representative of the Commission, starting at the September meeting.

Mr. Virata to invite the student representative to the September meeting.

Vice Chair Chappell – Noted that one student representative position remains vacant and applications are available on the City website for any interested student.

Commissioner Ramoran initiated a discussion about Student Representative voting rights. It was confirmed that Student Representatives are non-voting members, by city ordinance.

Mr. Virata will provide updates on any changes implemented by the City Council regarding student representatives and voting rights.

**Executive Committee**

**a. July 30<sup>th</sup> World Day against Human Trafficking**

Chair deHarte – Recognized July 30 as the World Day against Human Trafficking. A quote from the UN Secretary General was shared along with the statistical information reported by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime.

**Commission Development/Mediation Committee**

**a. Mediation (Andrade)**

Commissioner Andrade – Will take the lead to follow-up on mediator trainings and gather Commissioner interest.

Chair deHarte – Commented on the Commission’s role to serve as official mediators for the City of Palm Springs and the need for a new cycle of available mediators.

**b. Retreat (Chappell, deHarte) –**

Chair deHarte – Indicated it is a good time to have a retreat with all the new Commissioners on board. The subcommittee will put a calendar together for this fall.

Vice Chair Chappell – Spoke on the format of past retreats and encouraged new Commissioners to reach out if they had any questions.

**B. Update on City Council Community Listening Session**

Mr. Virata – The City Council will have Community Listening Session on Policing, Racism, Discrimination and related issues on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 11:00 am. The City Council wants to hear about concerns in regards to city operations and any ideas to address these issues for the City. A link to the

registration was shared.

**C. Topical Newsworthy Items**

Commissioner Ramoran – Addressed public comments given by Mr. David Weiner and acknowledged Chair deHarte for having the Human Rights Commission Webpage as a vehicle to report any anti-Asian discrimination and hate crimes.

Chair deHarte – Stated the policy for discussion about items brought forward during public comment, noting that only Agenda items may be discussed.

Commissioner Shepherd- Expressed support of recent issues and particular issues related to Section 14.

Chair deHarte – Reported that the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast was postponed to July 11, 2020 and then cancelled.

Commissioner Ames – Welcomed the new Commissioners and is looking forward to getting to know and work with everybody.

Mr. Virata – Confirmed Agendas have information for persons to participate via ZOOM and/or submit public comments to the City Clerk’s office. The Commission will continue to work with Ms. Rodriguez.

Vice Chappell – Welcomed the new Commissioners once again.

Chair deHarte – Provided acknowledgement to Mr. Dale Cook who served as their Staff Liaison and was a wonderful City Servant and great support to the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Cook departed employment with the City after many years. They wish him well in retirement and will certainly miss him around the table.

**8. ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. 2020 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Virata – Reported the 2020-21 meeting schedule required Commission action.

Chair deHarte – Stated the Commission typically matches City Council’s Agenda and they are dark in August. He suggested resuming regular schedule on Monday, September 14.

**MOTION By:** Commissioner Andrade, Second by Commissioner Owen to accept the Human Rights Commission 2020-21 meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Commissioner Recruitment**

Mr. Virata – Reported that Commissioner Randolph’s term has ended and that seat is now open. The City Clerk has received four applications and the opportunity to apply online is still open.

**9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

Chair deHarte explained the process for bringing forward agenda items for future meetings.

The following agenda items were proposed:

1. Committee Assignments
2. Communications & Outreach Guidelines
3. Guest Speaker on Section 14
4. Renaming of Streets: Martin Luther King Jr., Lawrence Crosley, Harvey Milk and Barak Obama

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements made.

Chair deHarte – Provided closing remarks of encouragement to the new Commissioners. He asked for patience during COVID-19 and the way they operate now. By working together as the Commission, they can bring significant change on behalf of the residents in Palm Springs.

Mr. Virata will be providing the new Commissioners with their digital Commissioner Binder via USB Drive as part of the onboarding process.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Commission adjourned at 7:02 P.M. to an adjourned Regular Meeting, Monday, September 14, 2020, at 5:30 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Rodriguez  
Housing Program Assistant



City of Palm Springs  
 Human Rights Commission  
 – Budget Allocation –

	Proposed Expenditures 20-21
Supplies	
Retreat	
Annual Awards & Recognition	
Sponsorship/Dues	
Insurance	
Marketing	
Promotional	
Sub-Total	
Budget	\$3,123.95
Difference	

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
2020/2021 MEETING SCHEDULE**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday, July 13, 2020	5:30 P.M.	Zoom Virtual Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2020	5:30 P.M.	Dark
Monday, September 14, 2020	5:30 P.M.	Zoom Virtual Meeting
Monday, October 12, 2020	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, November 9, 2020	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, December 14, 2020	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, January 11, 2021	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, February 8, 2021	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, March 8, 2021	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, April 12, 2021	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, May 10, 2021	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined
Monday, June 14, 2021	5:30 P.M.	To Be Determined

**Due to holidays, special meetings, rescheduling or cancellations all meetings are SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**