

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting (Telephonic)

Wednesday December 1, 2010

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Jeff Lavender, Chairperson
Laura Mims, Vice Chairperson
Kenneth Moore
Jesus Cordova
Daisy Flores
Beverly Dupree

Board Members Not Present

Staff Members Present

Melanie V. Pate, Executive Director
Sandra R. Kane, Legal Counsel

I. Call to Order

Jeff Lavender called the telephonic meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members of the public were invited to participate in person at the Lobby Conference Room of the Law Building located at 1275 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona. Board members Jeff Lavender, Laura Mims, Ken Moore, Daisy Flores and Jesus Cordova introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2010 and October 27, 2010 meetings.

Upon motion from Kenneth Moore and seconded by Jesus Cordova, the minutes from the October 6, 2010 and October 27, 2010 Board meetings were approved 5-0.

III. Encouraging Municipalities to Adopt Ordinances Prohibiting Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity Discrimination.

A. Possible Letter from Board

Sandra Kane informed the Board that she and Melanie Pate had worked on drafting a proposed letter to municipalities, as previously requested by the Board. Beverly Dupree joined the meeting. Based on reaction to similar efforts in other states and the transition from Attorney General Terry Goddard to Attorney General Tom Horne, Sandra Kane and Melanie Pate suggested that the letter be fully considered and reviewed by the Executive Office prior to the Board's proposed issuance of such a letter to municipalities, particularly since the Civil Rights Division is part of the Attorney General's Office, and consider making it more of an informative letter. Melanie Pate stated that it is certainly up to the Board regarding what they decide to do about the letter. Jesus Cordova suggested that the Board hold off on this action until the beginning of next year. Laura Mims, Beverly Dupree agreed with Jesus Cordova. Ken Moore expressed reluctance to avoid addressing civil rights issues, but agreed to put this on hold for a few months.

B. Similar Efforts in Other Jurisdictions

Ms. Kane informed the Board that two other civil rights organizations, a Human

Relations Commissions in Lancaster, PA and another in Richmond, VA, were recently shut down by government funding agencies for encouraging adoption of provisions prohibiting sexual orientation and/or gender identity discrimination. Sandra Kane and Melanie Pate informed the Board that, since the Board is part of the Civil Rights Division by statute, there is a possibility that the Civil Rights Division could be in similar jeopardy should the Board send the proposed letter, even if the Division is not signing off on the letter. Before the Board decides to move forward with the proposed letter, Melanie Pate will inform the new administration at the Attorney General's Office of the proposed action.

IV. Report on Support for the Dream Act.

Sandra Kane reported that the Board sent two letters to US Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain in late October 2010. Copies of the letters have been distributed to the Board. The Senate appears to be getting ready to have another vote on the Dream Act. Sandra Kane received an email from MALDEF and they are encouraging everyone to contact their Senators and Representatives to show support. In an editorial today, the Arizona Republic supported the Dream Act.

V. Report on Release of 2009 Hate Crime Statistics.

Sandra Kane will provide the Board with a link to Department of Justice's 2009 Hate Crime Statistics so that they can review the statistics for Arizona and the nation.

VI. Discussion and Planning re Forum on Strategies to Deal with School Bullying.

Jeff Lavender stated that they are still in the process of finding a location to hold the forum. One option mentioned was Phoenix College. Board members Beverly Dupree and Jesus Cordova stated that they would also check on other facilities. Sandra Kane suggested that the Board might wish to hold off on having a forum in January since we don't have a location, we haven't identified speakers or defined the issues that it wishes to address, and may wish to get input from Attorney General Elect Tom Horne who has knowledge and expertise on this issue from his time at the Department of Education. Jeff Lavender suggested that the Division contact Tom Horne after he starts as Attorney General to find out if he is interested in participating and to identify proposed dates. Melanie Pate stated that she would contact the new Attorney General after the transition takes place. Jeff Lavender suggested determining Tom Horne's interest and availability for a forum before planning. Melanie Pate stated that she would raise the issue at the first opportunity but does not know whether this issue will be a priority for him in the first few months of his administration.

VII. Call to Public.

No persons wished to speak.

VIII. Division Report

Melanie Pate reported that the AG transition period is occurring in December. Also, the Division will be having a settlement meeting on Friday, December 3rd regarding the Harkins case. She also reported that the Division has hired a new Assistant Attorney General, Jennifer Larson, who will start with the Division on December 13, 2010. The Division is doing well on its contracts with EEOC and HUD.

IX. Announcements and Current Events

Sandra Kane announced that Linda Styles from the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions regarding Board vacancies. Ms. Styles informed Ms. Kane that there were several people that they were looking at for appointing to the Board and they were having them vetted. They will inform the Division of new appointments when the vetting process is over. The Martin Luther King Jr. events will be coming up in January.

X. Adjournment

Upon motion by Kenneth Moore and seconded by Daisy Flores the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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