

SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

2006 Workplan

The 2004 and 2005 workplans and the associated accomplishments were focused on the building of a full SHRC Commission through extensive outreach, recruitment and selection processes that have resulted in a full complement of commissioners to move the agenda for 2006. The consistent priorities that have been identified over the past two years have been:

- I. Increased visibility of the SHRC to the residents and government entities of the City of Seattle.**
- II. Increased knowledge of community relations within the police department especially the operations, evaluation and accountability of the OPA and the OPARB.**
- III. Analysis and evaluation of the current ordinance that establishes the role and operations of the SHRC Appeals Committee. The Commissioners recommend appropriate changes to the ordinance, working collaboratively with SOCR, the City Council and the Mayor's office to meet the needs and expectations of the public.**
- IV. Establishment of expanded SHRC committees that include residents and organizations working in partnership with the SHRC.**

The SHRC 2006 work plan represents the implementation of actions and processes to achieve these four priorities/goals, as outlined above. Beyond these specific work items, the Commission will continue to respond to issues that come to its attention throughout the year and take action as appropriate.

I. Increase Visibility of the SHRC:

- Conduct a series of community forums by geographic area – Northeast, Northwest, Central, Southeast and Southwest. Conduct analyses of the data obtained to identify the top human rights priorities as determined by the residents.
- Develop an agenda for 2006/2007 that reflects the outcomes of the community forums.
- Create partnerships with community organizations, associations and other stakeholders with interests in human rights.
- Develop and maintain an informative and active website that includes information on human rights and a current listing of activities and events in which the public can participate.

- Conduct at least one meeting per quarter in the community to facilitate attendance by the community.

II. Police Department and OPA/OPARB:

The Public Safety Committee of the SHRC has identified the area of police and community relations as a priority for 2006.

- Collect information on the purpose and operations of the OPA/OPARB through invitations to stakeholders to attend committee meetings, analysis of documents, and conversations with other organizations with the same interest/focus.
- Work collaboratively with the departments to make recommendations on the structure and strategies for improvement and increased effectiveness.
- Prepare a report on the findings to educate the SHRC as a whole, residents and departments.
- Continue to work on homelessness as a violation of human rights.

III. Ordinance and the SHRC Appeal Process

- Work with the SHRC attorney to analyze the language in the current ordinance and its impact on the Appeal Process for the citizens of Seattle.
- Work collaboratively with the SOCR management and staff in crafting new language and creating a more effective document.
- Recommend improvements to the Appeal Process, where relevant.

IV. Expanded SHRC committees

- Continue the development of relationships and contacts initiated through the community forums.
- Engage residents in working with the SHRC as a member of a SHRC committee or on special issues.
- Create an intern program with the local universities and colleges for increased exposure of the students to the working of government and to expand the capacity of the SHRC to conduct research and analysis related to the work of the SHRC.



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Presentation to the Seattle City Council

WORKPLAN 2006

June 6th, 2006

Presented by Angela N. Tarah, Chair