

HUNTINGTON BEACH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Back Row: Member Elaine Keeley, EdD; Council Member Rhonda Bolton, Esq (City Council Liaison); Member Timothy Stuart, Esq; Former Vice Chairperson Chris Hoff, PhD; Council Member Natalie Moser (City Council Liaison); Former Member Antonio Benitez;

Front Row: Grace Yoon-Taylor (City Manager's Office Liaison); Former Secretary Teresa Carlisle; Member Hemesh Patel, DO; Secretary Jonathan Smith; Chairperson V.C. Rhone; HB Reads Liaison Linda MacDonell, EdD; Vice Chairperson Debbi Parrott **(Photo Dec. 2021)**

2022 Human Relations Committee

Executive Officers

V.C. Rhone, Chairperson
Debbi Parrott, Vice Chairperson
Jonathan Smith, Secretary

Board Members

Vanessa Chow
(appointed June 2022)

Kim Kaston
(appointed November 2022)

Elaine Keeley, EdD

Hemesh Patel, DO

Timothy Stuart

Iliana Velazquez
(appointed January 2022)

Former Board Members (2021-2022)

*Antonio Benitez
(December 2021)*

*Chris Hoff, PhD
(April 2022)*

*Teresa Carlisle
(September 2022)*

Liaisons

Councilmember Natalie Moser, City Council
Councilmember Rhonda Bolton, City Council
Sgt. Juan Munoz, Huntington Beach Police Department Liaison
Grace Yoon-Taylor, City Manager's Office Staff Liaison

Partnerships

Huntington Beach Police Department
HB Reads
Greater HB Interfaith Council
OC Human Relations
HB Coordinating Council



As we look ahead to 2023 and introduce our new theme of "Creating Connections" we will continue to encourage residents to speak without offending and listen without defending.

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

As we say goodbye to 2022, we look back on the year that we leaned into empathy, promoted a deeper sense of dignity, and embraced the strength that is born out of honoring our common ground with neighbors and friends. This year we celebrated our 25th Anniversary and recommitted ourselves to carrying out the mission that was first implemented by our founders, the late Dr. Ralph Bauer and the Honorable Shirley Dettloff to promote and celebrate diversity in our community through education and understanding. We took things

one step further by seeking out opportunities to engage with the community. We challenged residents to become more "comfortably uncomfortable" by participating in dialogue with those who may share different views. As we look ahead to 2023 and introduce our new theme of "Creating Connections" we will continue to encourage residents to speak without offending and listen without defending. We believe in the value of interdependence of all people and that every member of our community has the right to be treated with dignity.

v.c. rhone
V.C. RHONE

HBHRC, Chairperson

ONGOING PROGRAMS & EVENTS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The "Meet. Greet. Seek." initiative guides this ad hoc, which promotes volunteerism, observation, interaction and engagement opportunities within the community and HBPD major events.



CULTURAL CINEMA SHOWCASE

Featuring Q&A panels and independent short films highlighting underrepresented groups and celebrating a variety of cultures, including the "One HB Culture" of surf, skate, and eco conservation.



DAY OF DIALOGUE

A one-day retreat in partnership with Huntington Beach Union High School District and Orange County Human Relations to bring students together to discuss specific issues pertaining to their youth experiences and peers.



HB LISTENS

HB Listens hosts the Community Summit annually promoting engagement with community members through panelists, stories, and meaningful dialogue circles about a variety of topics that helps us get to know one another and honor our experiences.



THE RALPH BAUER YOUTH VOICES ESSAY & ART CONTEST

Renamed in honor of our founder, the late Dr. Ralph Bauer, this is an essay and art contest open to all Huntington Beach students, youth residents and high schools in the HBUHSD. Essays, art, and dance submissions are received and adjudicated by a team of professionals.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Special Guest: Chief Eric Parra (January 2022)

This year we welcomed new HBPD Police Chief, Eric Parra to attend a meeting to engage in open dialogue with him as he provided us with details on the HBPD's community relations and 2022 goals. Chief Parra has over 33 years of law enforcement experience, previously serving as the Chief of Police for the City of Alhambra. He has also held a variety of leadership roles with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.



Special Guest: Commissioner Kandee Lewis (February 2022)

At our February meeting we were joined by Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department Commissioner Kandee Lewis. Commissioner Lewis is the CEO/President of Positive Results Center (PRC). Through partnerships with law enforcement, judicial, government, and faith-based organizations, PRC provides training to help entities develop a culture of inclusion, social justice, and equity.



Cultural Cinema Showcase: Black History Month Cycle (March 2022)

Delayed due to COVID, we were honored to screen *\$TACK\$* starring (to the left) Daytime Emmy-nominated actor, Mark Christopher Lawrence (*Christmas with the Kranks*, *The Pursuit of Happyness*) directed by Gerald Webb (*Sharknado*, *Barry*), with a panel moderated by Kira Talise (*Insecure*, *Killing It*). This cycle also featured HBO's *House of the Dragon* star, Steve Touissant, in the Showcase's Best International Film, *A Viable Candidate*. Over 25 films were screened!

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



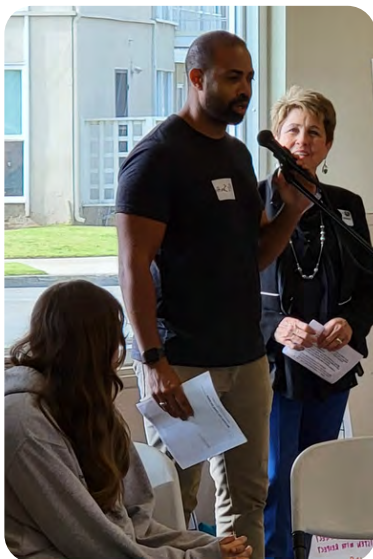
HB Listens: Antisemitism Dialogue Circle (March 2022)

In response to antisemitic flyers that were distributed throughout the community, our HB Listens Ad Hoc Committee hosted a dialogue circle for community members and Jewish leaders to openly discuss ways to counter Antisemitism. The event was co-facilitated by the OCHR and was well attended.



HBHRC 25th Anniversary (April 2022)

We kicked off the month of April celebrating our 25th Anniversary. Mayor Barbara Delgleize presented us with a commendation honoring the work that the HBHRC does in the community. We honored past City Council Liaisons, HBPD Liaisons, Staff Liaisons, and former HBHRC Chairpersons from the last 25 years. HBHS Marching Band greeted guests and we unveiled our new logo which was designed by high school student, Sandra Genidy! *(Pictured Chair Rhone and Mayor Delgleize).*



Day of Dialogue (April 2022)

We are always grateful for the support of Mayor Delgleize, our Council Liaisons Council Member Natalie Moser and Council Member Rhonda Bolton, who came out for our annual Day of Dialogue for high school students. This year we hosted over 60 students with group sessions and fun activities led by the OCHR. *(Pictured HBHRC Secretary Smith and Mayor Delgleize)*

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



HBHS Bridges' Culture Night! (May 2022)

We were invited to speak at the Huntington Beach High School Bridges' Culture Night (in partnership with the Orange County Human Relations). With over 400 participants in attendance it was such a wonderful, educational experience to see 22 different cultures and communities represented. Different stations featured foods and drinks from different countries along with live performances. We look forward to continuing our partnership with HBHS Bridges!



HB 4th of July Parade (July 2022)

What a blast we had participating in the 4th of July Parade! We are so grateful to community member Scott Crawford for volunteering to drive the HBHRC team in his classic vehicle. We handed out candy and stickers to all of the children we saw along the parade route and are looking forward to participating in 2023.

(Pictured from L to R: Chair Rhone and Vice Chair Parrott.)



Vans U.S. Open Dialogue Circle (August 2022)

Special thank you to OC Human Relations Council CEO, Alison Edwards for extending an invitation to us to partner with the Vans Corporation for the U.S. Open of Surfing. We were invited to host a special dialogue circle focusing on amplifying the voices of disabled community members, active listening, and sustainability efforts. Community Leader Rocky McKinnon (*pictured left*) gave a presentation on adaptive surfing.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



HBPD National Night Out (August 2022)

Thank you to HBPD Community Liaison, Hayley Yantorn, for the invitation to engage with the community at the annual HBPD National Night Out - a community-police awareness event in the United States held the first Tuesday of August. HBHRC Members Stuart and Velazquez (*pictured left*) greeted children and spoke to residents about our mission.



Driving Out Darkness: OC Summit on Antisemitism and Hate (August 2022)

We attended the Driving Out Darkness Summit with Mayor Delgleize and City Council Members where Rabbi Peter Levi, Anti Defamation League Regional Director, (*pictured left*) delivered a powerful speech and call to action on ways to counter antisemitism in communities and offer meaningful support to those impacted by hate and violence.



CommUNITY Picnic (August 2022)

What a fun day at our beautiful Central Park where Chair Rhone delivered a passionate speech about unity and our Community Engagement Ad Hoc and Executive Officers greeted community members and spread some cheer! The CommUNITY Picnic celebrates the city's diversity and features live performances, food trucks and inspirational speakers! *Pictured from L to R: Vice Chair Parrott, Secretary Smith, and Member Stuart.*

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Mass Casualty Training (August 2022)

We were invited to participate in a Mass Casualty Training sponsored by the HBPD, SWAT Team and Training Unit. We are so grateful to Training Sergeant, Jerry Goodspeed for spearheading this event and educating the community on how to respond during an active shooter situation in a mass setting. Pictured on the left, Chief Parra introduces the concept of "Run, Hide, Fight" to attendees.



Active Living Expo for Senior Citizens (September 2022)

We are committed to reaching every resident of Huntington Beach and engaging in positive, meaningful exchanges. Together with over 80 vendors, community groups, wellness organizations and City staff, we were honored to participate in the Active Living Expo at the Senior Center.

(Pictured L to R: Council Member Moser and Member Keeley)



Black Cat International Film Festival (October 2022)

To commemorate our 25th Anniversary we co-produced *The Case for Human Dignity* - a short documentary detailing the events that led to the formation of the Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee (*formerly Human Relations Task Force*). Using archival photos and HBPD case files, we sat with Sgt. Juan Munoz (HBPD) to travel back in time to 1996. Our historical short film was selected to screen at the Black Cat International Film Festival in South America.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Community Call to Action (October 2022)

In follow up to our Vans U.S. Open Community Dialogue, community leaders returned to help residents discover, connect, and engage with local community initiatives, raise awareness about those living with disabilities, explore sustainability measures and engage more with neighbors to practice active listening. *(Pictured from L to R: John Villa, Executive Director HB Wetlands Conservancy, Rocky McKinnon, Chief Instructor McKinnon Surf & SUP Lessons; Vice Chair Parrott; Sunny Lee-Goodman, Conflict Mediation Specialist; Member Chow; and Secretary Smith.*



Community Summit (November 2022)

We hosted our Annual Community Summit Virtually. The two-night event explored the First Amendment and Free Speech on Night One followed by Building Community and Finding Common Ground on Night Two. Community members submitted personal accounts of their experiences living in Huntington Beach and those stories were shared during the event. A moderator and team of panelists guided the candid conversations.



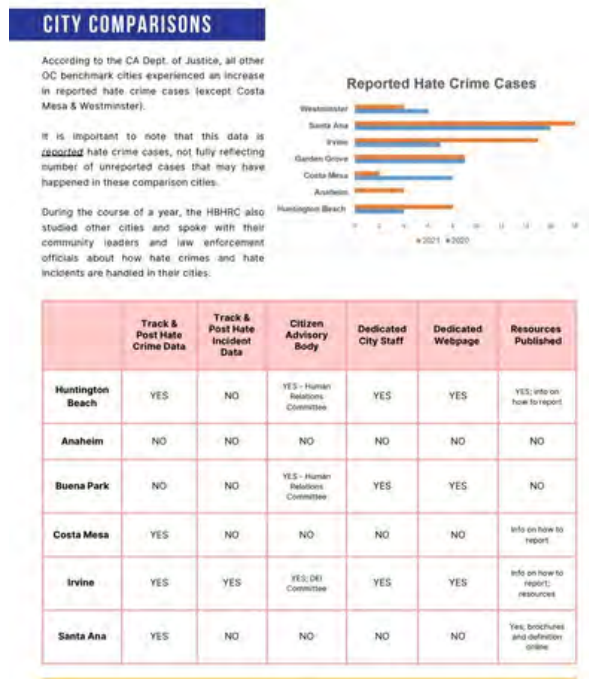
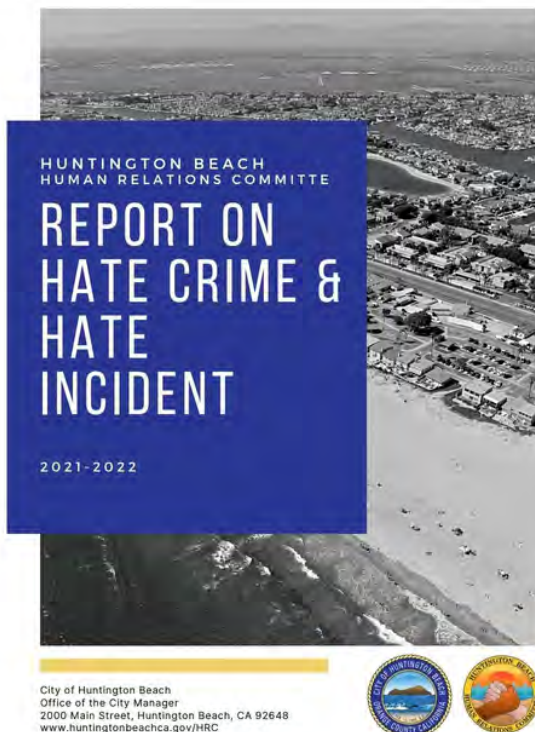
Special Guest: Deputy DA Billy Ha (November 2022)

With special thank you to Member Stuart, Esq. and the District Attorney's Office, we welcomed Deputy District Attorney, Billy Ha, to our November meeting. Deputy DA Ha's presentation on the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident was enlightening and helped members better understand why some incidents are declared crimes and why some crimes may or may not be prosecuted.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Report on Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents (November 2022)

- On April 5, 2021, the City Council directed the HBHRC to work with the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) and City staff to publish quarterly data summaries of reported hate crimes and hate incidents on the City website and submit recommendations to address these issues based on community stakeholder input.
- The HBHRC formed an ad-hoc committee to work on this Council directive. After 16 months of meeting, conducting research and hosting a community stakeholders meeting, the report was completed.
- On November 15, 2022, the report and recommendations were received and unanimously approved by the Huntington Beach City Council!



For a copy of the complete report, visit www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/HRC

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Swearing In & Welcoming New Members



Join us in congratulating our newest HBHRC Members! Clockwise from the Top Left: 1) Member Iliana Velazquez signs documents presented by City Manager's Office Liaison, Grace Yoon-Taylor, 2) Member Velazquez is sworn in (February 2022); 3) Member Vanessa Chow sworn in (July 2022); 4) Member Kim Kaston sworn in (December 2022). Thank you for your service!

2023 GOALS

Looking ahead, the Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee is excited to continue the work we started in 2022 and engage even more with Huntington Beach residents as we commit to "Creating Connections" in the months ahead.

A few of our goals for 2023 include:

- Host our first ever, Community Open House (Join us on January 10th at 5:30 PM!)
- Work more closely with the HBPD Community Liaison to integrate ourselves more with the Neighborhood Watch program and attend meetings
- Engage with the Huntington Beach Historical Society
- Welcome back the return of our newly renamed, Ralph Bauer Youth Voices Essay and Art Contest
- Continue to support the Huntington Beach Public Library's and Community Services' HB Community Cafe to bring neighbors together one conversation at a time
- Implement youth engagement opportunities in partnership with the HB Teen Services Program
- Launch our Friends of the HBHRC Volunteers Initiative



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CONCLUSION

As we look ahead to 2023 we remain committed to fulfilling the vision and carrying out the mission of the HBHRC.

Vision:

Huntington Beach is a community where all people feel respected, valued, and are free from discrimination and violence.

Mission:

The Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee mission is to inspire and promote mutual understanding, respect, safety and the well-being of all in our community through education and engagement.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

JOIN US:

The HBHRC meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:45 PM at the City Hall, Lower Level, Room B7. The public is invited to attend and more information about the meeting can be found on each Agenda.

CONTACT US:

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