

February 8, 2011

David Parker, Vice-Chair  
Human Rights Commission  
City of San Jose

The Honorable Kansen Chu, Councilmember  
The Honorable Members, Human Rights Commission  
City of San Jose

Councilmember Chu and Colleagues:

This year would have been my final year and term on the Human Rights Commission. As a member of the community who wants to continue my public service to our city, I found an opportunity within a vacancy on the Appeals Hearing Board. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, the City Council approved my appointment. I tender my resignation from the HRC upon being sworn in to my new capacity, on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

I want to thank all of you for my growth and experience while serving on the HRC. While I may not have completed certain goals I set for myself, I believe, we, as a body, have accomplished a lot, including: taking a position in support of equal marriage rights for LGBT families; opposing the "extraordinary rendition" policies of our federal government and local companies that support such tactics; and working to improve police/community relations. While the HRC may now be limited in the quantity of meetings it conducts, I believe the quality and passion of the work will remain stronger than ever.

Thanks to our current and past staff, Ernest, Margarita and Vilcia, for working with us to ensure we functioned to the best of our ability. I am also grateful to Councilmember Chu and Vice-Mayor Nguyen who, in their capacities as Liaisons to the HRC, allowed us a continued dialogue with Council and showed genuine interest in the work we did.

I believe the HRC should support and encourage colleagues who are progressive in their values and will remain fair when dealing with many controversial issues such as: police profiling; homelessness and social and economic justice. When the opportunity exists to choose my successor and your future leadership, I know you will find those qualities are possessed by: Raji Bains, now the most senior member of the Commission; Clarence Madrilejos; Joshua Barousse and Megan Young.

Each member of the HRC brought a level of experience and public service few in our community exhibit. I hope to have the opportunity to work with you in the future and I encourage each of you to continue your service in some capacity, after you leave the HRC. Best wishes in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



David Parker, Vice-Chair  
Human Rights Commission