

MASW Human Rights Task Force
Meeting Report
1:15 pm, February 26, 2009
Center for Social Justice
606 East Capitol, Jefferson City
573-635-1648

Present: Carol Zablocki, Nancy Browning, Eric Krekel, Andrew Bailey (teleconference), Nathan Gerth, Don Love (reporting)

1. The Human Rights Commission in Springfield is in jeopardy because of budget cuts and an inexperienced city manager who doesn't understand the importance of the Commission in securing grants and how money budgeted for the Commission supports other city initiatives, Carol reports.

2. Eric is concerned about HB227, HB481 and HB799. They all limit the efficacy of the Human Rights Act. Commission on Human Rights executive Director Alisa Warren testified in favor of Jolie Justus's SB108 and SB109 which address discrimination based on sex and sexual orientation. Eric supports Joan Bray's SB 50 which would establish equal pay regardless of sex.

3. Nathan commented on a problem he had with discrimination while working at a Walmart in Columbia. He has filed a complaint with the Columbia Human Rights Commission for discrimination based on sexual orientation, which is a misdemeanor in Columbia. The Commission has been supportive, but it's very difficult to fight a big corporation that is willing to stonewall. The HRTF will look into sponsoring a public meeting in Columbia to raise awareness for the problem and educate workers about their rights and how to defend them.

4. The Columbia Domestic Partnership Registry proposal is moving forward. The mayor will sponsor the ordinance; most of the council members have declared support.

5. The Columbia police chief filed a report with the City Council stating that officers misused TASERs in two instances and that he has rewritten department guidelines to bring them into closer compliance with national standards. The Coalition for the Control of Tasers, of which we are a member will keep after Columbia make sure needed changes are made to protect citizens from unnecessary risks.

6. Bill tracking: go to Bob's weekly report for progress (or whatever you prefer to call it) at the Capitol. [Current Issues, Missouri Association for Social Welfare \(MASW\)](#)

7. Upcoming events:
PROMO LGBT Equality Day, Wednesday, March 25, State Capitol.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 1:15 pm at CSJ.
Keep in mind that these meeting days are a good time to do your lobbying at the Capitol. Come in the morning, bring a few supporters or team up with other HRTF members. Start planning for next month now.

Don Love, Chair