



Orange County Human Relations Commission

Commissioners

1300 S. Grand, Bldg B, Santa Ana, CA 92705
714.567.7470 www.ochumanrelations.org

*Mission: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict,
discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes*

Carol Turpen, Chair
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November 20, 2012

Former Yorba Linda Family
Corona, California

Dear Family:

On November 8, 2012, Rusty Kennedy, our Executive Director, shared your family's experience during your residence in Yorba Linda as you related it to him.

The Orange County Human Relations Commission voted unanimously to officially write to you and your family to express our sincere regrets that you faced such hostility. The Commission wishes that we would have been able to reach out and embrace your family to express the welcome that you deserved as family, as public servants and as new residents to the county.

We are dedicated to eliminating prejudice, intolerance and discrimination in the OC and sometimes that work includes educating the public about hostile situations that some of our residents face. To that end, we document hate crime and publish those reports annually. Unfortunately, every year since 1991 when we started publishing this report, African Americans have been the most frequently targeted community, even though they make up only 2% of Orange County residents.

Your story moved and galvanized the Commission and we are taking action to do special outreach to the African American community this year to listen to some of these stories and share that reality with the whole county. We have already shared your story with David Whiting of the OC Register; he did the series on White Supremacists in Orange County. We also have told it to all of the members of the Board of Supervisors and will be telling it at an upcoming meeting of the Yorba Linda City Council.

As much as some are tired of hearing about discrimination and bigotry and would like to declare this a post-racial society, our Commission finds that the facts don't support that conclusion. We plan to share your story with others in order to make the good people of Orange County understand that some people in our community are being harassed due to their race or other inherent aspect of their being and that we are not comfortable when this happens, nor will avert our eyes to avoid hate in our community when we see it. We are committed to wipe-out hate within the OC.

Our hearts go out to you and we hope that our message of support helps heal the wounds that were inflicted while you resided in Yorba Linda. Should you ever return to Orange County, we would like to meet with you and welcome you into our community.

For the Commission I am,

Carol Turpen, Chair, OC Human Relations Commission