



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Study Session

Item -1

Multicultural Coalition Presentation of the Movie "The Color of Fear"

Staff Contact: Multicultural Coalition

Council Agenda Memo

From: Paul M. Briseño, Assistant to the City Administrator

Meeting: April 17, 2007

Subject: Multicultural Coalition Presentation of the Movie
“The Color of Fear”

Item #'s: 1

Presenter Odaly's Perez, Director of the Grand Island
Multicultural Coalition

Background

The Grand Island Multicultural Coalition continues to strive to build bridges of understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among groups within the area. The Multicultural Coalition offers a comprehensive service delivery center that reduces the duplication of services, better utilizes the time of clients and services providers, eliminates barriers to services, and stretches the limited financial resources of service providers.

The Coalition's mission is to provide resources to immigrant families to achieve aspirations of a better life in the Grand Island area, as well as develop cross-cultural understanding and promote positive intercultural relations. The Coalition offers multiple opportunities to develop cross-cultural understanding:

- The annual one day conference titled the “Faces of Diversity” gives participants an increased awareness of different cultures and how these cultures can infuse vibrant changes within our community. (www.grandislandmulticulturalcoalition.com)
- Monthly membership meetings provide dialogue between local organizations
- Multiple volunteer opportunities at Coalition sponsored events
- “The Color of Fear” presentation which explores multiple cultural differences and fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of our differences

Discussion

The Multicultural Coalition will present and facilitate the movie *“The Color of Fear”*. This movie is an internationally acclaimed film about eight men of various ethnicities engaging in an intimate and honest dialogue about race and the effects of racism on their lives and families. In 1995, Oprah Winfrey aired a one-hour special on Lee Mun Wah

and the *“The Color of Fear”* cast, which was viewed by over 15 million people around the world. The film reveals the unique and intimate relationship that eight men had with each other as they shared their experiences with racism. It also shows what happened when the men came to an impasse during their weekend together and who emerged to break the silence between them.

“The Color of Fear” is an insightful, groundbreaking film about the state of race relations in America as seen through the eyes of eight North American men of Asian, European, Latino, and African descent. In a series of intelligent, emotional, and dramatic confrontations, the men reveal the pain and scars that racism has caused them. What emerges is a deeper sense of understanding and trust.

This is a dialogue most of us fear, but hope will happen sometime in our lifetime.

This program presentation is designed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our differences. Through the use of personal stories and psychosocial exercise, the Council will learn about each other and gain insight into their own cultural histories and that of their constituents.

***The Color of Fear”* Discussion Prompts:**

1. With whom do you identify most strongly in the video?
2. What seems to be scary and difficult about discussing race and discrimination?
3. What moment in the film is most memorable for you and what did it teach you?

Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for discussion and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.