



**AGENDA
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Sarah Kerlow

Second District: Yensi Jacobo, Andrew Lemarquand, Sadie Ferguson

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

***Commissioner Lemarquand will be attending hybrid via Zoom per Gov't. Code Section 54953(b) at this location: 1094 Petaluma Blvd S, Petaluma, CA 94952.**

MEETING INFORMATION:

The February 27, 2024 Commission on Human Rights Meeting will be facilitated in person. Members of the public can watch, listen, or join the meeting using one of the three following methods:

1. JOIN IN PERSON:

Human Resources Large Training Room
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Limited seating is available for public participants.

2. JOIN VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM:

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application. Go to:
<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99356615285?pwd=UUISNIIIDQkUvTitzTWQ5bnNkL2NBUT09>
Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285
Passcode: 575862

3. JOIN IN ZOOM BY TELEPHONE:

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128
Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285
Passcode: 575862

Instructions for the Public:

In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconference Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the Commission on Human Rights meetings will be facilitated using a dual format with listening and participation available through Zoom and in person.

Agendas and Materials: Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the Commission's website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Human-Rights/Calendar/> Due to legal, copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. **Materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission at chr@sonoma-county.org.**

Disabled Accommodation: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Deputy Clerk at (707) 565-1851, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

Approval of the Consent Calendar: The Consent Calendar includes routine financial and administrative actions that are usually approved by a single majority vote. There will be no discussion on these items prior to voting on the motion unless Commission Members request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

Public Comment: Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda: Members of the public are invited to join this meeting via Zoom teleconferencing. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Each person is usually granted three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Commission, under the Brown Act, Commission members may not deliberate or take any action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

Commitment to Civil Engagement: All are encouraged to engage in respectful dialog that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. Commissioners, Staff, and the public are encouraged to:

- Create an atmosphere of respect and civility where Commissioners, County Staff, and the Public are free to express their ideas within the time and content parameters established by the Brown Act and CHR's standard Parliamentary procedures (Robert's Rules of Order);
- Establish and maintain a cordial and respectful atmosphere during discussions;
- Foster meaningful dialogue free of attacks of a personal nature and/or attacks based on age, (dis)ability, class, education level, gender, gender identity, occupation, race and/or ethnicity, sexual orientation;
- Listen with an open mind to all information, including dissenting points of view, regarding issues presented to the Commission;
- Recognize it is sometimes difficult to speak at meetings, and out of respect for each person's perspective, allow speakers to have their say without comment or body gestures, including booing, whistling, or clapping.

I. CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS

II. COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT– PHILLIPS

D'mitra Smith and Kirstyne Lange from NAACP presenting on their partnership with Sonoma State University to form the Sonoma County Slavery Historical Research.

III. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 23, 2024 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2024 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

V. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Openings - one (1) in the First District, two (2) in the Fourth District, and two (2) in the Fifth District.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – PHILLIPS

Public comment is limited to **two** minutes per topic or **four** minutes when using interpretation services.

VII. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

1. Farmworker Resources Fair- Volunteers needed for Sunday afternoon, March 3 from 1:30pm-4pm at Agatha Furth Center, Redwood Hwy, Windsor, CA 95492
2. SRJC Petaluma: Free Future Social Justice Conference, April 12, 9am-2:30pm

VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

Commissioners to provide reports and/or updates from the work being done by their ad hoc committee(s) and/or project committee(s).

1. Visibility Project
2. Just Migration Reform
3. Youth Commission on Human Rights
4. Collective Care Response Team

IX. REGULAR CALENDAR – Discussion and possible action on items below

1. **Purchase a membership for Los Cien-** Phillips
This will allow Commissioners to attend events that pertain to Human Rights issues.
2. **Email Addresses** - Lemarquand
Approve purchase of a software for Commission.org email addresses in-lieu of personal emails.
3. **CHR Website** - Lemarquand
Biographies and photos of past commissioners and past honorees to educate the public.
4. **Meeting technology and location** - Lemarquand
Propose to use the OWL technology instead of the current technology and perhaps move location.

5. Youth Commission Project Revised Budget - Jacobo and Cruz Reyes
Review and approve the revised budget.

X. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING – PHILLIPS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Sarah Kerlow*

Second District: Yensi Jacobo, Andrew Lemarquand*

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Liz Cruz Reyes, Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

Second District: Sadie Ferguson

***Commissioner Lemarquand attended via Zoom (AB 2449 Excuse)**

***Commissioner Lopez arrived late at approximately at 5:42PM**

*** Commissioner Kerlow left early at approximately at 8:30 PM**

Meeting held virtually and in person.

I. CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:34 PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement.

II. COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT—PHILLIPS

Chair Phillips introduced Janice Blalock as past Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and a member of the Human Trafficking Task Force. Chair Phillips read a resolution recognizing Janice Blalock as Community Human Rights Champion. Janice Blalock provided a presentation of her past, present, and future projects helping women and girls in Sonoma County. She is leaving the Commission on the Status of Women but will be joining the Board for Verity. Her work in Sonoma County will continue.

III. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2023 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Motion to approve the November 28, 2023 Minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Warwick

Absent:1

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Ferguson was absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Chair Phillips announced an opening in the Second District, two in the Fourth District, and two in the Fifth District.
2. Commissioner Warwick was asked to take the Vice-Chair position for the remainder of the term since Elizabeth Escalante will no longer be a commissioner. Commissioner Warwick approved and motion to have her be Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Cruz Reyes Ayes: 8 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sapper Absent:1 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Ferguson was absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS

No Public Comment.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

1. Chair Phillips asked for volunteers for Farmworker Resources Fair on Sunday, March 3rd from 1:30pm-4pm at Agatha Furth Center, Redwood Hwy, Windsor, CA 95492.
2. Chair Phillips announced that SRJC Petaluma will have a Free Future Social Justice Conference on April 12th from 9am-2:30pm.
3. Chair Phillips shared that Human Trafficking Awareness Month Gold Resolution was presented at Board of Supervisors meeting earlier that day and that she couldn't be there.
4. Commissioner Warwick provided an update with regards to West County Unified School district deadnaming of trans students in their yearbook. Due to the holiday, they didn't follow-up on the letter. They will meet with affected youth to be able to advise the Commission on what they would like to see in terms of restoration and mediation processes from this experience.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Visibility Project reminded everyone that there's a reporting tool on the Visibility Project page on the Commission's website, and they can report any unjust, discriminatory, or racist in the community. They are working on preparing the data from last year to share it during a meeting.
2. Just Migration Reform reported on a meeting the Coalition had. There will be a February Washington March and another *Caminata*. Letters are being sent as support.
3. Youth Commission on Human Rights shared that they had their fifth meeting. They covered how city council and Board of Supervisors worked, and hopefully they will come to one of their meetings.
4. Collective Care Response Team have been working with women survivors from domestic violence in Sonoma County who are now trying to protect their children

from the same perpetrators, but they really don't have a chance to escape from when it comes to custody. They had a member share her story that can be related to many of the other women in the team.

VIII. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Chair Phillips read the Ceasefire letter on the war in Israel and Goza. Commissioners commented on the content of the statement first to about 134 members of the public, in-person and via Zoom. After discussing the content of the statement, they opened the floor for public comment. They had about 30 written public comments and 60 members of the public speak during public comment. After about 3 hours of public comment, the Commission felt they would need additional time to digest the community comments and to revise their statement. No action was taken.
2. Chair Phillips read the Black History Gold Resolution. The resolution will be presented on February 6th Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:30pm. No discussion occurred. Motion to approve the resolution.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Warwick Ayes: 7 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sapper Absent: 2 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Ferguson and Kerlow were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair.
Motion passed.

3. The remainder of the agenda items were postponed for February 27, 2024 meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, February 22, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large)

Second District: Yensi Jacobo, Andrew Lemarquand*, Sadie Ferguson

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Liz Cruz Reyes, Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

First District: Sarah Kerlow

***Commissioner Lemarquand attended via Zoom per Gov't. Code Section 54953(b) at this location: 1094 Petaluma Blvd S, Petaluma, CA 94952.**

Meeting held virtually and in person.

I. CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS

Before meeting was call to order, Vice Chair Warwick led everyone with a breathing exercise right after Commissioner Sapper read the meeting conduct guidelines. Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:40 PM. Roll call was taken by staff.

II. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Chair Phillips read the revised Ceasefire letter on the war in Israel and Goza. Commissioners commented on the content of the letter first to about 71 members of the public, in-person and via Zoom. Commissioners Merrell and Cruz Reyes suggested edits to the revised letter. They opened the floor for public comment. They had about 9 written public comments and 39 members of the public speak during public comment. Of those public comments, 4 opposed the letter completely and 35 were in favor of the letter. Out of the 35 in favor of the letter, 21 supported the letter as written and 14 supported the letter with the suggested edits to the letter. There were two motions on the table.

First motion: To approve the letter as is without any amended edits.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 2

Noes: 6

Second: Commissioner Ferguson

Absent: 1

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Kerlow was absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion failed.

Second motion: To approve the letter with the amended edits:

- a. Change the first sentence to *In light of the severe human rights violations occurring in Gaza, Palestine, and Israel*
- b. Third paragraph after We condemn war to add *genocide, and terrorism*. For grammatical purposes change *We condemn war, genocide, and terrorism. We recognize we cannot stop this as divided communities.*
- c. Fourth paragraph, to be more inclusive add *innocent people including* instead of men, women, children. Add another sentence that say *We call for a ceasefire*. Last sentence of the fourth paragraph, add *and humanitarian aid can reach those in need.*
- d. Last paragraph, add *anti-Arab violence*

Motion: Commissioner Lopez

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Ferguson

Absent: 1

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Kerlow was absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.