



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

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

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

Second District: Andrew Lemarquand*, Sadie Ferguson

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

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell, Irmina Benson, Cecilia Sofranko

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 June 25, 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=UUISNIIQkUvTitzTWQ5bnNkL2NBUT09>

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– Cruz Reyes

Monthly featured guest to present on their service contributions to the community.

- Education Refuge

III. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 28, 2024 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Openings - one (1) in the Second District.
2. Mason Koski and Matthew Riley will be appointed on July 9, 2024 to represent the Fifth (5) District.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – PHILLIPS

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

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.

VII. 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

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

1. **Gun Violence Awareness Month Resolution**-Warwick
Honoring June as Gun Violence Awareness Month
2. **Yensi Jacobo Resolution**- Warwick
Honoring Yensi Jacobo for her contributions
3. **Nominations And Elections for Officers**- Phillips
Read the descriptions of the Officers role, take nominations, and vote for Chair, Vice Chair, and Officer-At-Large.
4. **Select The Kathleen Finigan Award Recipient**- Phillips
Vote to select the recipient of the 2024 Kathleen Finigan Award
5. **Surveillance Technology Ordinance Letter**- Merrell
Review and vote on the letter to support the surveillance technology ordinance
6. **Situation at The County Jail** - Barakat
Discussion on the hunger strike happening at the County jail
7. **Strategic Planning Discussion**- Phillips
Review workplan templates and process of the strategic planning session

- 8. Affordable housing issues in Petaluma and Sonoma- Sapper**
Discussion on next steps with this issue

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

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

Second District: Andrew Lemarquand*, Sadie Ferguson*

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell**, Irmina Benson, Cecilia Sofranko

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

Third District: Liz Cruz Reyes

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

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

****Commissioner Merrell arrived at approximately 5:55pm**

Meeting held virtually and in person.

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:32PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement. Roll call taken by Staff.

II. COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT– PHILLIPS

This month's community spotlight got postponed due to Rabbi Steve Finely's personal emergency.

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

No Discussion. Motion to approve the April 23, 2024 Minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Benson

Absent: 3

Abstained: 3

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Commissioner Merrell arrived late. Commissioners Barakat and Sofranko abstained as new Commissioners. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Staff performed the oath of office for Maria Barakat and Cecilia Sofranko. Each Commissioner introduced themselves and the Commission welcomed them.
2. Chair Phillips announced one (1) opening in the Second District and two (2) openings in the Fifth District however two individuals will be getting appointed for the Fifth District in July.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS

- Matthew Lee
- Adina Flores

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. Commissioner Lopez volunteered for Sonoma County Pride on June 1st after Chair Phillips asked for volunteers.
2. Commissioners Sapper and Barakat volunteered to table at the Juneteenth Community Festival Celebration on June 15th from 10am-6pm.
3. Chair Phillips reminded everyone to submit all reimbursements and invoices by Friday, June 14th as the Fiscal year ends June 30th.
4. Commissioner Sapper reported on affordable housing issues in Sonoma County. There are many violations in human rights security, true affordability, and apparent abuse of landlords.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Visibility ad hoc will be collecting data to create report to present to the Board of Supervisors.
2. Just Migration Reform ad hoc announced that Northern California Coalition on Just Immigration Reform will be sending leaders to Washington DC on July 20-30th. On August 17th-19th, a march will be happening from San Jose to San Francisco.
3. Youth Commission Project is accepting applications until June 9th for the new cohort and current Youth Commissioners will be doing the interviews. Their end of year celebration happened at Spring Lake, where they shared positive affirmations and ate cake. They don't need extra funds.
4. Collective Care Response Team met with Damon Connolly's office, and they are being supportive. Piqui's Law passed, but it's not being enforced. They are in an odd place with legislative and the courtrooms. They want to enlist community members to do court watch. They have different court watcher cohorts. They will have an end of the year gathering without disclosing the location for safety reasons.

VIII. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Commissioner Sapper read the Jewish Heritage Month Resolution and led the discussion. Some Commissioners asked for clarification on the reasoning of the resolution. They suggested to edit the content and have Jewish organizations input on the content. After much discussion, they left the resolution as is and they

approved the resolution. Motion to pass the Jewish Heritage Month Resolution.

Public Comment:

- Unknown

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Merrell

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Commissioner Lemarquand proposed to purchase Google Workspace. This software would allow Commissioners to all have Gmails, can work collaboratively in ad hocs, and have more professional communication channels. It cost \$6 per month per user. Staff will purchase the subscription in July, the start of the new fiscal year. Motion to approve \$1080 for the yearly subscription of Google Workspace.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Kerlow

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

3. Commissioner Lemarquand would like to use the OWL technology at the Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building during the Commission meetings. The commission would purchase the device for up to \$1,000. This would create a hub for meetings. Creating another hub would allow the public to join meeting in-person. There was some discussion to not purchase an OWL for the Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building as Zoom already helps the public access the meetings. During the strategic planning meeting, they will discuss this more. No action was taken.
4. Commissioner Merrell led the discussion to support the surveillance technology ordinance; calling on the City of Santa Rosa to pass importance related to that technology that provides with oversight. The Commission voiced their support. A letter of support will be written for next meeting. No action was taken.

Public Comment:

- Nancy Pamberton
- Unknown

5. Chair Phillips led the nomination for the Kathleen Finigan Award. The Commission nominated Land a Hand- Jason Windus who created winter shelters using his moving trailers, and Kathy King with SOS housing the unhoused in Sonoma Vally. The Commission will vote on a recipient next meeting when they have written bios on each candidate. No action was taken.
6. Chair Phillips postponed the nominations for Officers due to Vice Chair Warwick's absence.

7. Chair Phillips led the budget discussion. All ad hocs will be spending their allocated budget. The Visibility Project will get back to Staff regarding their budget. The general fund has \$1326.29. The Commission suggested to use it for Pride swag. Motion to spend \$1326.29 for Pride swag.

Public Comment:

- Unknown

Motion: Commissioner Benson

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Lopez

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

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

1. Officers Elections
2. Strategic planning meeting
3. Surveillance technology ordinance
4. Kathleen Finigan Award
5. Affordable housing issues in Sonoma County
6. Hunger strike happening at the county jail.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



THE EDUCATION REFUGE

OUR PLATFORM



With tutors from diverse backgrounds, support and education are offered in various areas like English and computer science.



Our platform is 1 on 1, meaning that teachers and students are able to develop a individualized relationship to create the curriculum that best suits the needs of the refugee



Our program is run through online meetings, making it easy to access our services from anywhere regardless of what part of the world your in!



Currently we have 40+ total hours taught and offer 10+ subjects available for any interested mentee.

WHY US?

- We are for students run by students!
- 100% free with no charge for participants!
- individualized, personalized learning.

STORY

Over the past months, witnessing global issues like those in Ukraine inspired us to create the Education Refuge. We hope to support refugees lacking resources, to enable education for everyone, everywhere.

VISION

We aim to reduce educational inequalities and support individuals in achieving their dreams through accessible learning opportunities that helps their learning grow at a faster rate than that of a traditional classroom setting

MISSION

Our mission is to match refugees in need of individualized learning support with an qualified high-school student-teacher who is eager in helping their refugee reach their fullest potential on a more personalized level.

SIGN UP TODAY!



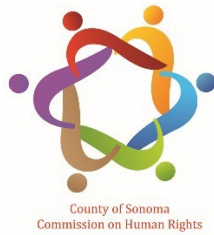
CONTACT US



<https://edurefuge.org>



contact@edurefuge.org



Proclaiming June 2024 as National Gun Violence Awareness Month

Whereas, Gun Violence has become one of the most significant public health concerns in the United States today, with over 48,830 people killed by firearms in 2022, equating to 133 deaths per day, with 5 in 10 deaths being suicides and 4 in 10 deaths being homicides, and is now the leading cause of death in children and teens in the U.S. aged 1-19; and

Whereas, in 2023, there were 604 mass shootings in the United States with 754 people killed and 2,443 people wounded; with 275 mass shootings having occurred so far in 2024 with 354 people killed and 1,075 wounded; and

Whereas, California has been a leader in comprehensive gun reform in the United States as the first U.S. state to pass bans on assault weapons, bump stocks, and high capacity magazines, with among other measures leading the state to have the 7th lowest rate of gun deaths in the U.S. and 33% less than the national average; and

Whereas, the impact of gun violence in the United States has affected so many aspects of our daily lives: from active shooter drills becoming a standard to feeling more unsafe in our public spaces to the mental health trauma the families, victims, and survivors of gun violence face and the impact on their communities, to the need for the creation of a White House Office on Gun Violence Prevention; and

Whereas, starting in 2015, the first weekend of June is recognized as Wear Orange Weekend and the month of June is recognized National Gun Violence Awareness Month in the memory of Hadiya Pendleton, born June 2, 1997, who died at age 15 after being shot and killed in a Chicago Park on January 29, 2013, who had performed with her high school marching band in the Inaugural Parade for President Barack Obama just 9 days earlier.

Therefore let it be resolved, that the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights hereby recognizes and honors June 7-9th, 2024, as Wear Orange Weekend and June 2024 as National Gun Violence Awareness Month. We commend the incredible efforts of organizations such as the Brady Campaign, Everytown for Gun Safety, Giffords, March for Our Lives, Sandy Hook Promise, and more, for their tireless work across the nation in educating and advancing comprehensive gun reform legislation in the effort to make our country a safer place for all people.

Dated: June 25, 2024



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF SONOMA COUNTY
HONORING
YENSI JACOBO
AS A CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, Yensi Jacobo has been a Commissioner on Human Rights, (CHR), since May 3, 2022 and served as Co-Chair of the Youth Commission on Human Rights (CHR) ad hoc since 2022; and

WHEREAS, Yensi Jacobo has been a quintessential member of CHR, bringing her wonderful qualities as a community leader who inspires sincere, compassionate, and authentic leadership and advocacy for human rights; and

WHEREAS, Yensi devoted her service with CHR to cultivating youth leadership and justice advocacy, revitalizing youth programming and participation in the Youth CHR post-pandemic, and increasing active participation by 140%; and

WHEREAS, Yensi demonstrates commitment, integrity, enthusiasm, grace, determination, and compassion with every aspect of her CHR duties, actions, and beyond; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights hereby honors Yensi Jacobo on her exemplary service to Sonoma County and declares Yensi Jacobo a Champion of Human Rights.

Officer-At-Large

Vice Chair

Chair

Kathleen Finigan Award Nominations

Person Name	The reason for their nomination
Kathy King	<p>Kathy King, Director, reports: "Here at SOS, we are doing all we can to accomplish our mission of feeding the hungry in Sonoma and Sonoma Valley. Please consider making a donation to offset the overhead cost that continues to rise as we serve more and more meals to those in need." Kathy King's approach to fundraising is based on 36 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, leading development efforts for both small community organizations and major institutions. She holds a Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management from the University of San Francisco and is a Certified Fundraising Executive. She is co-author of "How To Set Up a Development and Stewardship Office," published by the International Catholic Stewardship Council. She has worked tirelessly to feed the Sonoma valley homeless population and zhelp provide warming station and overnight parking for many years.</p>
Lend a Hand: Jason Windus & Team	<p>Jason Windus and team, with Lend a Hand of Hope during the freezing winter of 2023/2024 when the county would not open the Warming Centers, they without permission and much push back transformed their companies moving trucks into temporary warming shelters. The temperatures were in the low 20's and hypothermia can begin at 45 deg Fahrenheit. They began supplying food, water, coffee, blankets, sleeping bags, etc out of pocket. They were harassed many times by the police, even threatened with arrest. Volunteers kept helping. Donations from the public started coming in. Lend a Hand did not stop the warming trucks until Spring. They are planning a bigger and better operation for next winter. The honesty, care and courage displayed by Lend a Hand would have made Kathleen's heart swell with joy in that everyday people with no cash incentive, no grants, nothing would drop everything in their lives to be out in the freezing cold. Every. Single. Night.</p>

Maria Barakat, MPP

Report to the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

Subject: Sonoma County jail, hunger strike in progress

Problem Definition:

As of [May 22, 2024](#)/ [May 31, 2024](#), 45 people incarcerated in Sonoma County jail's male facility are on hunger strike opposing excessive, long lock-downs, breaches of Covid 19 safety protections during the current disease outbreak, severe isolation and solitary confinement, and limits on visitation related in part to jail short staffing.

Reporting by the Press Democrat shows that incarcerated people in Sonoma County jail have gone on multiple, extended hunger strike campaigns opposing jail conditions. 20 people were on strike in [January 2021](#), 90 people in [April 2021](#), 75 in August 2022, and 90 people did so in March 2023, and 10 in [April 2023](#). The Press Democrat report, [October 2023](#), exposes confinement of people for 23 hours per day due to persistent short staffing at the county facility, "Extended confinements violate [state and county policies](#) for humane treatment, and prisoner-rights activists say the practice could place the county in legal jeopardy."

County jail has a documented history of human rights violations ([Sonoma County CHR 2020](#)).

Resources:

Sonoma County Human Rights Commission

[Human Right Violations in Santa Rosa California: Policing the Black Lives Matter](#)

[Protests](#)

California Bureau of State and Community Corrections:

[Title 15 Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities](#)

[2021 Summary of California Jail Conditions Survey](#)

Prison Policy Initiative

[Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2024](#)

ProPublica

[A Guide to California's Broken Prisons and the Fight to Fix Them](#)

Key Issues:

- 1. Extended Confinement**
- 2. Breaches of Covid 19 protection protocol**
- 3. Lack of visitation**

Stakeholders:

Incarcerated people in Sonoma County Jail

Families and communities of incarcerated individuals

Sonoma County Sheriff

Sonoma County jail staff/ County Human Resources

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Sonoma County, Bay Area, and CA civil rights organizations