



Agenda
County of Sonoma
Commission on Human Rights – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

5:30PM

Hybrid

First District: Howard Sapper, Maria Barakat, Daniel H Sohn*

Second District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes (Officer-at-Large)

Fourth District: Irmina Benson, Cecilia Sofranko

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, Nick Thayer

***Commissioner Sohn will be attending hybrid via Zoom per Gov't. Code Section 54953(b) at this location: 25555 Alicia Pkwy, Laguna Hills, CA 92653**

Meeting Information:

The February 25, 2025, 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=UUISNlIDQkUvTitzTWQ5bnNkL2NBUT09>

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. Consent Items– Phillips

1. Approval of the January 28, 2025, meeting minutes.

III. Openings and appointments– Phillips

1. Openings – two (2) in the Second District, one (1) in the Fourth District, and one (1) in the Fifth District.

IV. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items – Phillips

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

V. Officer Reports and Administrative Updates

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

VI. 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).

VII. Regular Calendar – Discussion and possible action on items below

1. Pledge Invitation from *Protect and Resist* to Stand Up for Human Rights

Review and discuss the language of the pledge: <https://www.protectandresist.com/>

2. Immigration and Sanctuary Support-Phillips

Review a list of topics and talking points to grant authority to the Officers to respond to the community faster on those topics.

VIII. Additional Agenda Items for The Next Commission Meeting– Phillips

IX. Adjournment

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large)*, Daniel H. Sohn**

Second District: Andrew Lemarquand***, Sadie Ferguson***, Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes (Officer-at-Large)

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

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, Nick Thayer

Commissioners Absent:

First District: Maria Barakat

*Commissioner Sapper arrived at approximately at 5:45pm.

**Commissioner Sohn left early at approximately at 5:45pm.

***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 Benson attended via Zoom per AB2449.

Meeting held virtually and in person.

I. Call To Order – Mission Statement – Roll Call – Phillips

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Warwick at 5:36PM. Vice Chair Warwick read the mission statement. Roll call taken by Staff.

II. Japanese American Citizen League Presentation- Lemarquand

Bruce Shimizu with Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League presented on the internment of Japanese Americans from Sonoma County during the WWII period. He shared personal family experiences and photos to give the audience a visual example during these times. He emphasized the long-standing impacts that it had on multiple generations of Sonoma County Japanese American community members and how prevent this experience to happen to any other ethnic group.

III. Consent Items- Phillips

1. Approval of the October 22, 2024 meeting minutes

2. Approval of the special meeting November 19, 2024 minutes

Motion to approve both October 22, 2024 meeting minutes and special meeting November 19, 2024 minutes. No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Cruz Reyes

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Lopez

Absent:2

Abstained: 4

Commissioner Barakat was absent. Commissioner Sohn left early. Commissioners Thayer and

Burcina abstained as they were recently appointed to the Commission. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Vice Chair Warwick abstained due to running the meeting. Motion passed.

IV. Openings and Appointments – Phillips

1. Staff performed Commissioners Burcina and Thayer’s oath of office.
2. Vice Chair Warwick announced one (1) opening in the Fourth District and one (1) in the Fifth District.

V. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items- Phillips

- Brie
- John

VI. Officers report and Administrative Updates.

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

1. Staff reminded everyone to use their new email addresses and business cards.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee and Project Committee Updates

1. **Youth Commission Project** had an event in December where they learn about Homelessness. They will be having a meeting next week to talk about racial Justice and they are currently working on their projects. They will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors in March and do a social justice conference.
2. **Adult Pride Ad Hoc** is still conversing with Sonoma Pride on the logistics of the event and ticket prizes. They are seeking locations at no cost. El Coqui, Santa Rosa Junior College-Petaluma Campus and La Rosa were mentioned as recommendations.
3. **Housing and Homelessness Committee** is seeking legal advice to dismantle the idea that being homeless is illegal.
4. **Racial Equity and Social Justice Framework** didn’t have anything new to report.
5. **Disability Justice Ad Hoc** was dealing with restructuring and they have a meeting with Sonoma County Health Department to come up with the language of the fliers.
6. **Sonoma County Visibility Project** is still looking at the website design of the survey.

VIII. Regular Calendar

1. 2025 Black History Month Resolution

Vice Chair Warwick introduced the Black History Month Resolution. Staff announced that the resolution will be presented at the Board of Supervisors on February 4, 2025 at 1:30pm at 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa. Commissioner Thayer asked to clarify why don’t they establish an ongoing resolution instead of yearly resolution. The Commission clarify that it’s per year that the Board of Supervisors acknowledge the specific awareness to make it ceremonial and honoring the month each year. Motion to approve the resolution. No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Burcina	Ayes: 9	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sofranko	Absent:2	Abstained: 2

Commissioner Barakat was absent. Commissioner Sohn left early. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Vice Chair Warwick abstained due to running the meeting. Motion passed.

2. Adopting a Resolution Acknowledging Historical Injustices and Preventing Future Human Rights Violations

Commissioner Lemarquand shared that Sonoma County Japanese American community is supportive of the resolution. No discussion. No Public Comment. Motion to approve the resolution.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper Ayes: 9 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Cruz Reyes Absent:2 Abstained: 2

Commissioner Barakat was absent. Commissioner Sohn left early. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Vice Chair Warwick abstained due to running the meeting. Motion passed.

3. Sonoma County Visibility Project Name change

Commissioner Lemarquand suggested the name to be Sonoma County Visibility Project 2.0 as they are working on redesigning the website and transform the platform. No discussion. No Public Comment. Motion to approve the name change.

Motion: Commissioner Burcina Ayes: 9 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Cruz Reyes Absent:2 Abstained: 2

Commissioner Barakat was absent. Commissioner Sohn left early. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Vice Chair Warwick abstained due to running the meeting. Motion passed.

4. Immigration and Sanctuary Support

Vice Chair Warwick led the discussion on how to support the community particularly with regards to immigration and sanctuary support. She suggested to grant the Officers authority to sign on to certain call for action items, and approve items as a collective body, or to create public statements in response to the emerging needs in the community. This authority would allow the Officers to respond fast to the community. Commissioners voiced that they should all have talking points or a list of topics that the officers can respond to and deliver the same message. The Officers must later report out at the next meeting. The also want to create a resource guide to be placed on their website. No action was taken at this time.

IX. Additional Agenda Items for the Next Commission Meeting – Phillips

1. Report out for H1- Just Migration Reform

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Immigration

The Commission on Human Rights reaffirms the principle that no human being is “illegal” or outside the protection of the law or exempt from receiving human rights. As defined by various immigration and ACLU organizations, the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights declares and reaffirms:

1. No Human Being is Illegal
2. Equality and Dignity before the Law
3. Right to Liberty and Security of Person
4. Protection of Family Unity
5. Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression
6. Right to Due and Fair Process

Immigrants in the U.S often face xenophobia, racism, backlash and dehumanization due to their place of origin. The Commission on Human Rights stands behind people who have an immigrant or an undocumented status, no human is “illegal” or can be “alien” as global citizens.

Our commission stands in support of people who are undocumented or have a mixed-status family household. Immigrants rights are human rights, which is clearly defined within the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of a Child and by multiple human rights organizations like the ACLU.

The Commission on Human Rights condemns splitting families apart, detaining humans in detention camps and denying services to others due to their background/documentation status. We hold strongly that undocumented and documented individuals have the right to equality, security, liberty, freedom of expression, due process and to keep our families together. The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights stands in solidarity and allyship with immigrant, first-generation and mixed-status families who live in fear of deportation or retaliation due to their background.

Additionally, we reaffirm and stand with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, who have “pledged to protect the civil rights of the County’s immigrants to the fullest extent provided by the law. The Board also reaffirmed the County’s commitment to abide by state laws adopted by the California Legislature that ensure law enforcement services, schools, health care facilities, courts and other public agencies are accessible to every person in California, regardless of immigration status.” <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/county-administrators-office/projects/support-for-immigrant-communities>