



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

2. Roll Call

Present Commissioners:

Estela De Los Rios, Eleanor Evans, Christina Griffin-Jones, Dennis Hodges, Adeem Ismaeil, George Khoury, Julia Legaspi, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Ellen Nash, Elena Perez, Edith Sanchez (for Sheriff Ray), Gina Roberts, Yoli Apalategui (for DA Stephan), Alex Villafuerte

Late:

Pedro Anya, Cinnamon Clark, Rodney Fowler Sr., David Garcias, Summer Stephan

Absent:

Warsan Artan, Kate Clark, Cara Dessert, Angela Elliot-Santos, Sarah Farouq, Taha Hassane

3. Land Acknowledgement

- Mr. Strong read a script recognizing and acknowledging Indigenous people that called (what is now) San Diego County home for a millennia

4. Celebratory/Awareness Month: National Disability Employment Awareness Month, National Italian American Heritage Month, Filipino American History Month

- Chair Nash – Breast Cancer presentation targeted for African American women
- Vice Chair Murray Ramirez – Spoke about US & LGBTQ History
- Commissioner Villafuerte – Highlights - Julia Legaspi was the first transgender Filipino American Commissioner appointed in San Diego
- Commissioner Legaspi – For more information please go to the House of the Philippines in Balboa Park

5. Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)

- Mr. Strong read Motion
- Commissioner Roberts Motioned, Commissioner Perez seconded

- Vote:

Anaya – Aye

Artan – Absent

Clark, K – Absent

Clark, C – Aye
Dessert – Absent
Elliot-Santos – Absent
Evans – Aye
Farouq – Absent
Fowler Sr. – Absent
Garcias – Aye
Griffin-Jones – Aye
Hassane – Absent
Hodges – Aye
Ismaeil – Aye
Khoury – Aye
Legaspi – Aye
Khoury – Aye
Legaspi – Aye
Murray Ramirez – Aye
Nash – Aye
Perez – Aye
Sanchez (for Ray) – Aye
Roberts – Aye
Apalategui (for Summer) – Aye
Villafuerte – Aye

- Motion passes unanimously

6. Public Comment: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Commission on any subject matter within the Commission's jurisdiction, but not an item on today's agenda
 - Video submission was sent to Commissioners
 - No other comments
7. General Election, November 8, 2022 – Cynthia Paes, Registrar of Voters (ROV), County of San Diego
 - ROV Cynthia Paes – Presented what ROV does and upcoming elections
 - Commissioner Griffin-Jones:
 - Q: I notice a lot of drop-off places at churches, are there any at mosques?
 - A: (Ms. Paes) Majority of locations are school, need to be over 1,000 sq ft and other criteria from the Voter's Choice Act
 - If you have any suggestions, please let her know so she can send someone from her team to assess
 - Q: Will there be Somali ballots?
 - A: (Ms. Paes) Right now, we provide facsimile ballots at targeted precincts in Somali. We will continue to recruit bilingual poll workers for targeted poll centers.
 - Commissioner Ismael: I will connect with Ms. Paes offline to discuss what languages we interact with at International Rescue committee to see how we can assist people with voting in their native languages.
 - Commissioner Khoury:
 - Q: Are there any synagogues for ballot dropping or voting?
 - A: (Ms. Paes) 103 of our 218 voting locations are schools, we do use schools, churches, libraries, community centers etc.
 - Q: Large Arabic community in East County, how can they access a ballot to make it easier to vote?
 - A: (Ms. Paes) Each vote center has a binder of the targeted facsimile ballots; we do have Arabic facsimile ballots as well. We hire Arabic and other covered languages to assist

with our outreach activities as well. I will share our calendar, we are reaching out to specific communities, we are conducting voter registration forums. Please share ROVs message as well.

8. Subcommittee updates: Annual Awards, Communications, Legislative, Policies and Procedures, Public Safety

- We need all Commissioners to be on at least one subcommittee
- Acknowledge and thank you to all Commissioners who are currently serving on subcommittees.

- Annual Awards Subcommittee: Chair Commissioner Nash
 - Goal is to have the awards next year
 - Awards would be great to do every 2 years, more to come

- Communications Subcommittee: Interim Chair Commissioner Nash
 - Chair needed for subcommittee
 - Community Connection Series
 - Having the public meet HRC commissioners
 - 5 Regions – N. Inland, N. Coastal, South, East, Central
 - Thursdays 5-6p
 - Family friendly
 - Meet and greets would be staggered i.e. one region per month
 - Want residents of SD County to know –
 - Who we are
 - What we do
 - Who they can go to
 - Please consider volunteering, especially in your region
 - Commissioner Griffin-Jones:
 - Volunteers for her region and for planning
 - Commissioner Evans:
 - Volunteers
 - If Board of Supervisor (BOS) unavailable, a representative should be present
 - Commissioner Roberts:
 - Volunteers
 - Commissioner Ramirez:
 - Correlate and inform the BOS for each district with date/time/location, attendance is optional
 - Volunteers
 - Problem with BOS being in attendance is questions would be directed to them versus us
 - Does not think starting in December is a good idea
 - Give special award to organizations or students
 - Commissioner Ismaeil:
 - Volunteers
 - Concurs with BOS being notified
 - Will add Commissioners that volunteered
 - Communications subcommittee meets 3rd Wednesday of every month 1-2p

- Legislative Subcommittee: Commissioner Perez for Vice-Chair Khoury
 - Very active committee
 - Works closely with Nerea Urtasun from Economic Development & Government Affairs (EDGA)

- Received approval to take actions
- Put together a process:
 - As we collect issues and decide what we want to support and bring back to HRC
 - Present in conjunction with EDGA
 - Be able to answer any questions the Commissioners have
- A summarized list was provided to us with vetoed items, but with no explanation, we asked for a reason why so that it could be rewritten – Nerea will provide update
- Commissioner Khoury:
 - Request Sam Tsoi to share what Nerea presented to our subcommittee
 - We ask commissioners to reach out to our subcommittee with any additional legislations that they have concerns about
- Policies & Procedures Subcommittee: Commissioner Garcias
 - Discussed Policy & Procedures with County jails
 - Had interview with the current sheriff
 - Need additional members for this subcommittee
 - Looking at HRC Strategic Plan
 - How we handle all the different policies
 - If there any issue campaigns how we would get to success
- Public Safety: Chair Commissioner De Los Rios
 - Need more members
 - Meet once a month, 3rd Monday 5:30p-6:30p
 - Presentations held:
 - 5 Mental health
 - 4 Community
 - 1 Environmental
 - Trying to create healthy relationships between our residents, community groups and law enforcement
 - Working to see if we can have a townhall meeting
 - Jail deaths are a priority
 - Commissioner Murray Ramirez:
 - Q: Suggest adding to our agenda [for next meeting] to invite the Sheriff to attend a meeting and have a Q&A to learn what his/her/they goals, and commitments are
 - Commissioner Khoury:
 - Agrees with Commissioner Ramirez
 - The Sheriff is not answerable to anyone, we should focus and try to change legislation to change that like the State Auditor suggested
 - Commissioner Roberts:
 - Disagrees with Commissioner Khoury, Sheriff and DA are accountable to the voters
 - Commissioner Garcias:
 - Has twice toured Central Jail, can see process', very eye opening
 - Perhaps we can talk to Sheriffs and arrange a tour for Commissioners that would like to attend?
 - Commissioner Griffin-Jones:
 - I encourage us to think about something new, a new way of doing things
 - Let Townhalls be about giving community members the feeling of empowerment instead of feeling like they've re-laid their trauma, just to be given another promise
 - I cannot in good conscious be apart of this group that wants a better

relationship between the community and the Sheriffs/police

- Commissioner Murray Ramirez:
 - Agrees to jail tour and suggests a tour of Juvenile Hall as well

9. Discussion of community raised matters relating to the Commission promoting positive human relations. Discussion is limited to 15 minutes which may include the Commission placing the matter on a future agenda for possible action.

- None from public
- Commissioner Murray Ramirez:
 - I think we need to have a set time limit for questions/answers/comments, so everyone feels like they are treated fairly

10. Staff Updates

- Governor will end State of Emergency in February 2023
 - Will begin having in-person meetings, more to come
- Final stages of contracting negotiations with a consulting team, more to come

11. Announcements

- Chair Nash:
 - Please volunteer for a subcommittee if you have not already done so
 - Your presence is very important
- Commissioner Perez:
 - Gave farewell speech

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12pm

Next Meeting of the Commission:

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.