



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:07 am

2. Roll Call

Present Commissioners:

Estela De Los Rios, Angela Elliot-Santos, Eleanor Evans, Sarah Farouq, Rodney Fowler Sr., David Garcias, Dennis Hodges, Adeem Ismaeil, George Khoury, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Ellen Nash, Edith Sanchez (for Sheriff Ray), Gina Roberts, Summer Stephan, Alex Villafuerte

Late:

Cinnamon Clark. Sheriff Ray

Excused Absences:

Kate Clark, Cara Dessert, Christina Griffin-Jones, Taha Hassane, Julia Legaspi,

Absent:

Pedro Anya, Warsan Artan,

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: Native American Heritage Month

- Commissioner Angela Elliot-Santos shared Native American history and will send statistics to HRC commissioners

Agenda item 8 taken out of order at the Chair's request

8. United Against Hate Week – Ellen Nash, Chair

- Chair Nash:
 - November 13-20th provided a brief description
 - Read quotes from Maya Angelou
 - Thanks Commissioner Murray Ramirez for putting on event with law enforcement and making everyone feel safe (Rally Against Hate)

- Commissioner Murray Ramirez:
 - Transgender Day of Remembrance – Spoke briefly on history, proper pronouns, the need to educate
 - Commissioner Murray Ramirez thanked DA Summer Stephan on her speech at Rally Against Hate

- Chair Nash:

Q: What do we need to look for or pay attention to when we are out in public since we are living in challenging times?

A: (DA Stephan) - Read statistics on Hate Crimes, recently met with the FBI and discussed concerns about social media and sending out wrong messages to children. As you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings, no visible packages in car, look around and make sure you know what is going on for yourself and others - do not intervene, do take information down: license number, descriptions immediately, make the 911 call if necessary, or call FBI tip line (858-320-1800) or [online](#) if there is a threat i.e. messages, hate speech etc.

You can also go to [SDCDA.ORG](#) and the DA's office can help direct your concerns to the appropriate agency.

Take threats seriously, trust your instincts, if you are reporting something on good faith, you will not get in trouble. It is better to report than to not report.

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

- Andrew Strong provided an update and read motion: HRC will need to meet in person starting February 2023 unless there is a law change – which we expect.
- Motion: To meet virtually in December
- Commissioner Roberts motioned, Commissioner Evans seconded the motion
- Vote:
 - Anaya – Absent
 - Artan – Absent
 - Clark, K – Absent
 - Clark, C – Aye
 - De Los Rios - Aye
 - Dessert – Absent
 - Elliot-Santos – Aye
 - Evans – Aye
 - Farouq – Aye
 - Fowler Sr. – Aye
 - Garcias – Aye
 - Griffin-Jones – Aye
 - Hassane – Absent
 - Hodges – Aye
 - Ismaeil – Aye
 - Khoury – Aye
 - Legaspi – Absent
 - Murray Ramirez – Aye
 - Nash – Aye
 - Ray – Aye

- Roberts – Aye
- Stephan – 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

- Jacquelyne Clark:

Q: Statistics regarding Anti-Hate in SD County, Anti-Black hate is the most pervasive, in light of all hate that is occurring in San Diego. What type of anti-hate laws, legislation etc exists in San Diego County? Is there one that addresses each group separately? Or together based on race, ethnicity & ancestry?

A: (DA Stephan) - I had previously emphasized that that Anti-Black and African American was the top category for hate crimes in the State and San Diego County region. Provided statistics on hate crimes. Can answer more fully offline if I did not answer your question.

- Chair Nash: We will add to future agenda to talk about solutions and best practices and how we can reduce those numbers.

7. Department of Homeless Solutions & Equitable Communities (HSEC) – Barbara Jimenez, Community Operations Officer

- Chair Nash shared photos of homeless encampments in downtown San Diego, visually seeing homelessness the most are in dense areas and the less dense areas see it less. To me visually seeing homelessness is traumatic. Visually seeing homelessness everyday and the trauma it creates in communities. Board of Supervisors (BOS) made a profound statement and resolution around Homelessness as a public health crisis, we will ask Barbara Jimenez and HSEC leadership team back to talk about how you translate and operationalize BOS statement. Your team are responsible for implementing.

- Barbara Jimenez gave a brief introduction on HSEC, introduced her directors that will present:
 - Office of Homeless Solutions – Dijana Beck
 - Office of Equitable Communities – Jennifer Bransford-Koons
 - Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs – Lucero Chavez Basilo

- Jennifer Bransford-Koons presented overview of HSEC

- Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner Khoury:

Q: Can you please provide a copy of this presentation to the Commissioners so I can share with the leaderships we have in East region?

A: (Bransford-Koons) - Of course, we will also connect you with East Region point of contacts for more information and resources.

- Commissioner Ismael:

Q: Regarding Haitian community, wondering if there are any special programs for housing for them?

A: (Bransford-Koons) - There is not any specialized programs related to housing for Haitians in particular, but we can go back and look. If Lucero finds any information, she will share with you.

- Q: Tom Packard (member of the public) - What are the uniqueness of your office compared to the Regional Task Force and what ways are you working together?

A: (Brigit Cooper, Chief HSEC) - We coordinate with RTFH, we have a couple of projects in process. We provide direct services; a lot of our team are out in the field connecting to people directly. We do have contracts and work with community partners. We are always open and willing to establish new partnerships as we move along.

- Q: Sam Merrill (member of the public) - How are you going to measure how effective you are since you are brand new?

A: (Bransford-Koons) - We are a year old, and we are starting to measure the outputs, but outputs are not outcomes, so we are trying to look at how do you measure community impact? We are looking at best practices nationwide, telling a story through data is a big part. We do not have a solid answer for you since we are working on it as we speak.

- Q: Jacquelyne Clark (member of the public) - How can we involve the community more when we encounter our unsheltered homeless community especially on public transit? My concern is how do we engage for safety first? Is rubbish and unsanitary conditions being addressed as well for homeless encampments?

A: (Bransford-Koons) – In regard to safety, we will defer to law enforcement.

A: (Cooper) – We do a lot out in the field with our partners and customers we encounter, Jennifer’s team is a good way we can educate and navigate these situations. We work with MTS and North County Transit; we try to engage and help folks that do use public transport. There are different jurisdictions for every area of homeless encampments, they are working on a cleanup and funding for the area near the downtown library location. It just depends on where/city etc, most cities have ways to report encampments or general attention. Unincorporated areas are County of San Diego jurisdictions.

- Q: Sam Merrill (member of the public) - Curious about your funding?

A: (Bransford-Koons) - We receive funding several different ways, from Feds, State, grants, multiple different sources, depending on what program we are working with.

- Q: Vanessa Graziano (member of public) - Wants to thank you all for all the wonderful work you are doing. Do we have something set up that holds landlords accountable?

A: (Bransford-Koons) - Most cities have their own Housing Commission, we can connect you with our Housing and Community partner, they are all interconnected, but we all have our different roles. Our department does not oversee housing.

- Chair Nash:
 - This was a great presentation, but it does not address what the BOS declared; therefore, we will invite you back to discuss where your roles fit in. Very impressed with Immigration Affairs. We need to see a sense of urgency regarding homelessness being traumatizing if we have to view it every day. We need a solution, sooner than later. HRC stands ready to assist.

- 9. Subcommittee updates: Annual Awards, Communications, Legislative, Policies and Procedures, Public Safety
 - Not discussed due to time constraints

- 10. 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.
 - Not discussed due to time constraints

- 11. Staff Updates
 - Not discussed due to time constraints

- 12. Announcements
 - Not discussed due to time constraints

- 13. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Next Meeting of the Commission:

TBD

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