



## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

### Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

#### Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order
  - Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.
2. Roll Call
  - **Present Commissioners:**  
Pedro Anaya, Cinnamon Clark, Kate Clark, Kay Coleman, Estela De Los Rios, Angela Elliot-Santos, Eleanor Evans, Rodney Fowler Sr., David Garcias, Dennis Hodges, Adeem Ismaeil, George Khoury, Tracy Jones-Weatherford (Sheriff Proxy), Nicole Murray Ramirez, Ellen Nash, Khaliq Raufi, Gina Roberts, Joseph Allen Ruanto-Ramirez, Yoli Apalategui (DA Proxy), David Vance
  - **Absent:**  
Sarah Farouq, Taha Hassane
  - Introduction of 3 new members: Joseph Allen Ruanto-Ramirez, Khaliq Raufi & Kay Coleman
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. 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.
  - No public comments.
5. Celebratory/Awareness Month or Day: Transgender Awareness and Human Trafficking
  - Women's History Month (March)
    - Chair Nash shared writings from Marian Wright.
  - Arab American Heritage Month (April -not previously on agenda)
    - Commissioner Khoury shared comments on Arab American Heritage month.
    - Commissioner Khoury also shared comments on the history of May 15<sup>th</sup>, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nakba and the impact on Palestine.
  - Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month
    - Commissioner Ruanto-Ramirez shared history of how the heritage month came about as well as the impact Asians have had on the United States.
  - Jewish American Heritage Month
    - Rabbi Scott Meltzer from Ohr Shalom Synagogue in Bankers hill gave brief history of Judaism and Jewish people in San Diego.

6. Rules of Order:

- Mr. Strong read excerpts of the Rules of Order.

7. Action Item: Future in-person HRC Meetings: Poll outcome – Vote on top two (2) options

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
- Commissioner Coleman: Want to remind everyone it is a majority by 1 vote. If we are trying to get youth, most will be in school between 10a-12p, I encourage you we choose a different time
- Commissioner Khoury: Can we alternate day and evening times every other month?
  - Commissioner Evans: That does not solve our problem, many of us work and have responsibilities and if we alternate it could cause confusion and further scheduling problems.
- Commissioner Roberts: There are a lot of people here today at this time, on the third Tuesday of the month.
- Commissioner Nash: I like third Tuesdays at 5:30p, can we retake poll?
  - Mr. Strong: If a motion is made, we can do that.
  - Commissioner Roberts: Motion to vote on third Tuesday at 5:30 PM, Commissioner Anaya seconded motion.
  - Commissioner Khoury is not available for this new date & time motioned.
- Commissioner Anaya: There will never be a perfect time that everyone will be able to make it. It will conflict with someone's schedule, and we may need to think if we can make time to be on this commission.
- Commissioner Fowler: We have over 20 people here, but there will always be a conflict. Perhaps we could alternate from month to month going day to evening.
- Commissioner Ismaeil: I am committed to being flexible, if we are trying to find a middle ground, maybe we can find an evening that works for everyone.
- Commissioner Nash: We will take vote for third option.
- **Vote 3<sup>rd</sup> option: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**
  - Anaya – Aye
  - Clark, C. – Aye
  - Clark, K. – Nay
  - Coleman – Nay
  - De Los Rios – Nay
  - Elliot-Santos – Aye
  - Evans – Aye
  - Fowler Sr. – Aye
  - Garcias – Nay
  - Hodges – Nay
  - Ismaeil – Aye
  - Khoury – Nay
  - Jones-Weatherford – Nay
  - Murray Ramirez – Aye
  - Nash – Aye
  - Raufi – Nay
  - Roberts - Aye
  - Ruanto-Ramirez – Aye
  - Apalategui – Nay
  - Vance - Aye

- **Vote 1<sup>st</sup> option: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**
  - Anaya – Nay
  - Clark, C. – Nay
  - Clark, K. – Aye
  - Coleman – Nay
  - De Los Rios – Aye
  - Elliot-Santos – Nay
  - Evans – Nay
  - Fowler Sr. – Abstain
  - Garcias – Nay
  - Hodges – Aye
  - Ismaeil – Aye
  - Khoury – Aye
  - Jones-Weatherford – Aye
  - Murray Ramirez – Nay
  - Nash – Nay
  - Raufi – Aye
  - Roberts - Aye
  - Ruanto-Ramirez – Nay
  - Apalategui – Aye
  - Vance – Nay
  
- **Vote 2<sup>nd</sup> option: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
  - Anaya – Aye
  - Clark, C. – Aye
  - Clark, K. – Nay
  - Coleman – Aye
  - De Los Rios – Nay
  - Elliot-Santos – Nay
  - Evans – Aye
  - Fowler Sr. – Abstain
  - Garcias – Aye
  - Hodges – Nay
  - Ismaeil – Nay
  - Khoury – Aye
  - Jones-Weatherford – Nay
  - Murray Ramirez – Nay
  - Nash – Aye
  - Raufi – Nay
  - Roberts - Nay
  - Ruanto-Ramirez – Aye
  - Apalategui – Aye
  - Vance – Nay
  
- Results:
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday - 5:30 PM -7:30 PM – 11 votes**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM – 9 votes
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – 9 votes

8. Action Item: Election process & Election of Chair and Two Vice Chairs

- Mr. Strong read process for elections.
  - There was a discussion on public or ballot voting. Mr. Strong advised the commission that under Brown Act, a secret ballot was not acceptable.
- Candidates read and allowed up to two (2) minutes to speak:
  - **Chair Nominations:**
    - Chair Ellen Nash – 2 nominations for Chair.
    - Pedro Anaya- 2 nomination for Chair.
    - George Khoury- 1 nomination for Chair.
      - Withdraws name for consideration.
    - Estella De Los Rios- 1 nomination for Chair.
  - Vote:
    - Anaya – Abstain
    - Clark, C. – Nash
    - Clark, K. – Nash
    - Coleman – De Los Rios
    - De Los Rios – Abstain
    - Elliot-Santos – De Los Rios
    - Evans – De Los Rios
    - Fowler Sr. – Nash
    - Garcias – Nash
    - Hodges – Nash
    - Ismaeil – Nash
    - Khoury – Nash
    - Jones-Weatherford – Nash
    - Murray Ramirez – Nash
    - Nash – Nash
    - Raufi – Nash
    - Roberts - Nash
    - Ruanto-Ramirez – Nash
    - Apalategui – Nash
    - Vance – Nash
  - Results:
    - **Ellen Nash: 15**
    - De Los Rios: 3
    - Abstain: 2
- **Vice-Chair Nominations:**
  - Nicole Murray Ramirez – 1 self-nominated Vice Chair; 1 nominated for Vice Chair.
  - Eleonor Evans – 1 self-nominated Vice Chair; 2 nominations for Vice Chair.
  - Pedro Anaya- 1 nomination for Vice Chair.
  - George Khoury- 1 self-nomination for Vice Chair; 1 nomination for Vice Chair.
    - Withdraws name for consideration.
  - Cinnamon Clark- 2 nominations for Vice Chair.
    - Withdraws name for consideration.
  - Angela Elliot -Santos- 1 self-nomination for Vice Chair; 1 nomination for Vice Chair.
    - Withdraws name for consideration.

- Estella De Los Rios- 1 nomination for Vice Chair.
- David Vance – 1 nomination for Vice Chair.
  - Withdraws name for consideration.
- Comments:
  - Commissioner Coleman: Stated she believes terms should be up after 2 years to allow for new vision and leadership.
  - Commissioner Fowler: Opposes the statement Commissioner Coleman made.
- Vote:
  - Anaya – Murray Ramirez & De Los Rios
  - Clark, C. – Murray Ramirez & De Los Rios
  - Clark, K. – Anaya & De Los Rios
  - Coleman – Evans & De Los Rios
  - De Los Rios – Evans & De Los Rios
  - Elliot-Santos – Evans & De Los Rios
  - Evans – Evans & De Los Rios
  - Fowler Sr. – Murray Ramirez & Evans
  - Garcias – Murray Ramirez & Evans
  - Hodges – De Los Rios & Evans
  - Ismaeil – Evans & De Los Rios
  - Khoury – Anaya & De Los Rios
  - Jones-Weatherford – Murray Ramirez & Abstain
  - Murray Ramirez – Murray Ramirez & Evans
  - Nash – Murray Ramirez & De Los Rios
  - Raufi – Anaya & Evans
  - Roberts – Murray Ramirez & Evans
  - Ruanto-Ramirez – Murray Ramirez & De Los Rios
  - Apalategui – Murray Ramirez & De Los Rios
  - Vance – Evans & De Los Rios
- Results:
  - Murray Ramirez: 10
  - **Evans: 12**
  - Anaya: 3
  - **De Los Rios: 14**
- Commissioner Evans & Commissioner De Los Rios gave ‘Thank you’ speeches.

#### 9. Form 700 Filings

- Mr. Strong reminded Commissioners to file Form 700 yearly and when you vacant a commission seat.
- Reach out to Cindy Jones or Andrew Strong if you have any questions.

#### 10. Subcommittee Updates

- Commissioners to be appointed to subcommittees.
  - Mr. Strong: Would like Commissioners to know that we have several sub-committees available for them to join.
  - Commissioner Khoury: Please join sub-committees, we have not be able to meet quorum due to absences. Please join if you can.
  - Commissioner Roberts: Please join and commit to attending these sub-committee meetings.
  - Commissioner De Los Rios: As Chair for Public Safety, we do get stuck for not meeting

quorum, please join and attend.

- Commissioner Elliot-Santos: Please join the Legislative sub-committee.
- Commissioner Clark: Can we let the new Commissioners know what each of the sub-committees are about, and the date and time they meet?
  - A - Mr. Strong: Yes, we can contact them directly to share those details.
- Mr. Strong: If you feel like you need to resign from any sub-committees that you are currently on, please let us know so that quorum can be made.
- Commissioner Khoury: I will be out of the country for the next two months and would like to suspend or withdraw my participation in all of the subcommittees I am apart of, to allow for quorum to be met. I will renew my membership once I return.
  - Mr. Strong: Please send us an email in regards to this.

- Communications:

- Recap on Bonita Sunnyside:
  - Commissioners Evans recapped the event from March 8, 2023.
- For June 2023:
  - Commissioner Evans: We will have another event within the next 45 days.
  - We need all Commissioners to be involved to attend and publicize event.
  - We will finalize date and location soon.
- Commissioner Evans: I petition that we ask the Board of Supervisors to allow mileage reimbursement for Commission members since we attend events.
  - Mr. Strong: We can discuss at a later date since this item was not on the agenda, however we are in discussions what this would like across all our Commissions, we can provide an update at a later date.

11. 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.

- Commissioner Anaya: Conversation regarding representation and demographics in our Board of Supervisor (BOS) offices.
- Chair Nash: District 4 vacancy and budget process, if someone can come and talk about budget process. BOS Vargas has said she would attend as many community meetings as possible to discuss budget talks for CoSD.
- Commissioner K. Clark: Humanitarian issue of people being caught between the border walls these past few weeks and how the CoSD can be prepared to provide aid in future.
  - Commissioner De Los Rios: Second this item.

12. Staff Updates

- Creating HRC email address':
  - Mr. Strong recommends creating a separate email address for only HRC items, if you need assistance, please let us know.
- Commissioner Clark: Can we update the HRC website?
  - A- Mr. Strong: We can update bios.

13. Announcements

- None.

14. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 7:22 PM.

**Next Meeting of the Commission:**

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Location: TBD