

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

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

5:30PM

Virtual

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Kathleen Finigan, Omar Paz Jr.*

Second District: Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair), Iliana Madrigal

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Paulina Lopez

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina (Officer-at-Large)

Staff: Meira Bowcut, Admin Aide

Commissioners Absent:

Third District: Ana Horta

Fourth District: Rosa Reynoza

*Commissioner Paz arrived late approximately at 5:38PM.

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER – CIVIL ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:33PM. Spanish translation services were provided to members of the public by Oscar Cano, Managing Partner of The Grey Highlander Corporation.

II. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 AGENDA – PHILLIPS

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Madrigal

Absent: 3

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Horta and Reynoza were absent. Commissioner Paz arrived late. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 25, 2022 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Motion: Commissioner Paulina Lopez

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Vice Chair Escalante

Absent: 3

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Horta and Reynoza were absent. Commissioner Paz arrived late. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

The Chair reported three openings –one in the Second District, one in the Fourth District, and two in the Fifth District.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – PHILLIPS

No one addressed the commission.

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

Discussion and possible action on items below

1. Holocaust Memorial Vandalism Statement

Chair Phillips read the statement. Commissioner Sapper added that all form of hatred and xenophobia are unacceptable to the Commission. Commissioner Sapper shared a personal experience.

Commissioner Finigan suggested an edit to the statement to say “there’s no form of Anti-Semitism that is acceptable to us”.

Motion for approval of the letter statement with the authority to make edits delegated by the Officers and author.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Paz

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Finigan

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Horta and Reynoza were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Community Spotlight

This month’s featured guest was Kirstyne Lange from NAACP. Chair Phillips introduced Kirstyne as a shining star. Kristyne gave an overview of her life experience and her community involvement. Kirstyne presented on the portrait of Sonoma County and the impact on Black residents. There was a discussion on the data presented.

Commissioners voiced their appreciation for the presentation and showed their gratitude for Kirstyne Lange.

Chair Phillip read a resolution to honor Kirstyne Lange for her community involvement with equity, diversity and inclusion.

Motion to pass the resolution.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Paulina Lopez

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Burcina

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Horta and Reynoza were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

3. Sheriff Candidates Forum

Chair Phillips provided an update on the sheriff candidates forum. 3 out of 4 sheriffs already responded to the invite. Chair Phillips communicated with Janice from Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW will be joining IOLERO Forum, but Janice will communicate with the rest of the commission to see if they can help CHR and provide questions for the forum.

No action was taken.

4. CHR Statement on David Ward

Chair Phillips read the statement on David Ward. Vice Chair Escalante reminded everyone to remember the purpose of why we are writing the statement and what is the hopeful outcome of the statement.

Commissioner Finigan suggested some edits to delete the phrase with written in caps.

A motion to approve the statement with the edits suggested and giving the Officers authority to edit.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Madrigal

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Paz

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Horta and Reynoza were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

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

1. Sonoma Valley situation that relates to special education and the school board
2. Update on the meeting with the SDC planning manager
3. Creating an Outreach Ad Hoc
4. Strategic Planning/Work Plan Retreat

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:53PM