

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

Tuesday, March 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), Ana Horta, Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Paulina Lopez*, Rosa Reynoza

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

Staff: Meira Bowcut, Admin Aide

*Commissioner Finigan arrived at approximately 5:37PM.

*Commissioner Paulina Lopez arrived at approximately 5:35PM.

*Commissioner Sapper left early at approximately 6:59PM

*Commissioner Isabel Lopez left early at approximately 7:37PM

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:32PM. Chair read the mission statement. Staff took roll call.

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

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Madrigal

Absent: 1

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Finigan arrived late. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Motion: Vice Chair Escalante

Ayes: 10

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Sapper

Absent: 0

Abstained: 1

Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – PHILLIPS

No one addressed the commission.

V. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

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

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

Discussion and possible action on items below

1. Sonoma Valley Special Needs/Board of Trustee Human Rights Conflict

Commissioner Sapper introduced Celeste Winders by providing an overview of her connection to the issue. Commissioner Paz explained the issue as an alarming systemic problem that has existed in the schools' districts in the nation and state, not just in Sonoma Valley. Commissioner Paz is seeking support for the protected class of students within the education to identify and call the task the failure of the Administration and Board Trustees. Celeste provided a brief background of the situation and provided specific examples of the problems in Sonoma Valley. She is asking for the commission to step in and help facilitate something to help ensure that the children access their civil rights. Violation of children's civil rights lead to illiteracy which then leads to prison, self-medicate, and then die. Celeste voiced that it's a human rights violation for children not to be able to read.

Chair Phillip proposed a committee to write and brainstorm on how the commission will support this issue. Commissioner Sapper volunteered the Disabilities Ad hoc.

No Public Comment

Motion to extend time by 25 minutes in total.

Motion:Commissioner Paz	Ayes: 10	Noes: 0
Second: Vice-Chair Escalante	Absent: 0	Abstained: 1

Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

Motion to delegate this issue of writing a letter of support with regards the matter of SVSD special education students and inequities to the Disability Ad Hoc with the four volunteers appointed to be leading this task, and with the authority of the ad hoc to draft a letter, and take any further action without the need of a vote from the entire commission.

Motion:Commissioner Paz	Ayes: 10	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Burcina	Absent: 0	Abstained: 1

Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Sheriff Candidate Forum Updates

Chair Phillips provided an update on the sheriff candidate forum. She announced the new date of April 6, 2022 at 6:30PM. New flyer and email template will go out to the commissioners. Interpretation Services will be provided for both ASL and Spanish.

No action was taken.

3. Interpretation Services

Chair Phillips mentioned that Oscar Ocano resigned and explained that the price increase to \$250 for Spanish translation services. She led the discussion on whether to provide translation services in every meeting. Most commissioners suggested to wait until after CHR does some outreach and to keep translation services for special events.

No action was taken.

No Public Comment

4. Sonoma County Human Rights Visibility Project

Chair Phillips provided a brief overview of the project that has been up and running since previous Chair Smith. Chair Phillip asked for a volunteer to oversee the project and revamp the project. Many questions ascended, but no one volunteered.

No action was taken.

No Public Comment

5. SurveyMonkey Renewal

Chair Phillips lead the discussion and reminded the Commission that each ad hoc can access the SurveyMonkey for their projects.

Motion to renew SurveyMonkey subscription.

No Public Comment.

Motion:Commissioner Paulina Lopez	Ayes: 9	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Finigan	Absent: 1	Abstained: 1

Commissioner Sapper was absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

6. Press Releases and Statements

Commissioner Finigan lead the discussion to release press releases and statements faster. She proposed to empower the officers to approve the copies when it's ready. Two options were presented during this discussion and decided to combine both.

Motion to amend the name of the Community Response Ad Hoc Committee to Community Outreach Ad Hoc Committee; and to amend the ad hoc purpose to include all matters of communications, outreach, and publicity on behalf of the Commission on Human Rights with final approval of actions and communications delegated to the Executive Board.

Motion: Commissioner Paz	Ayes: 8	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Finigan	Absent: 2	Abstained: 1

Commissioner Sapper and Isabel Lopez were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

Motion to reenter the discussion on the Press Releases and Statements, agenda item #6.

