MINUTES COUNTY OF SONOMA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:30PM Virtual

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large)*

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

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick, Lyndsey Burcina*

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

Fifth District: D'Ayona Jerome

- *Commissioner Sapper arrived late at approximately at 5:41pm
- *Commissioner Burcina arrived late at approximately at 5:44pm

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Escalante at 5:36 PM. Vice Chair read the mission statement. Roll call was taken by staff.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 24, 2023 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Vice Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023.

Motion: Commissioner Madrigal Ayes: 7 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Warwick Absent:3 Abstained: 1

Commissioner Jerome was absent. Commissioner Sapper and Burcina arrived late. Vice Chair

Escalante abstained due to leading the meeting. Motion passed.

III. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Vice Chair Escalante announced two (2) openings in the First District, one (1) opening in the Second District, and two (2) in the Fourth District.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS

The commission had no public comment.

V. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. The Black History Month announcement was disregarded due to Chair Phillips' state.

^{*}Commissioner Jacobo left early at approximately at 6:04pm

- 2. Sabrina and Diana from Inter-Tribal Council of California talked about their services, new available programs, and their relationship with their clients. They proposed a collaboration with the Commission to proclaim May 5th as National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. The Commission offered support. No action was taken on this item.
- 3. Chair Phillips read Elizabeth Escalante's Resolution. Vice Chair Escalante said words of appreciation. Commissioner Sapper acknowledged her and said words of support. Motioned to pass the resolution.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sapper Ayes: 7 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Madrigal Absent:3 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Jerome was absent. Commissioner Jacobo left early. Commissioner Burcina's mic wasn't working. Vice Chair Escalante abstained due to leading the meeting. Motion passed.

4. Vice Chair and Staff reported out that March 28, 2023 meeting will be available hybrid mode for the public. All Commissioners are expected to be there in-person unless there's an excuse. No Action Taken.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

- 1.Commissioner Sapper reported on a lawsuit on the SDC. The lawsuit is more due to the scope of the project. This might delay the project for a couple of years.
- Staff announced that the Commission's work plan is a consent item for the March 14,
 BOS meeting and invited Commissioners to comment under public comment on consent items.
- 3. Staff asked for volunteers for Wednesday Night Market: June 21, 2023, and July 19, 2023. Staff will email the Commission with more details.
- 4. Staff announced the Palm's Inn rally on March 13, 2023 at 10:00am and it's starting at Prince Gateway Park. Chair Phillips reported out her experience with the Palm's Inn.
- 5. Commissioner Sapper reported out on a situation where a women got raped in the Motel 6 premises in Rohnert Park. He is still reviewing the whole situation with Homeless Action.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 1.Outreach & Communication Ad Hoc Committee didn't have anything to add besides the Palm's Inn rally.
- 2. Immigrants' Rights Ad Hoc is following North Bay Jobs with Justice to ensure they get their demands.
- 3.Indigenous People Ad Hoc didn't have anything to add.
- 4. Junior Commission on Human Rights- Commissioner Madrigal announced that this is her last meeting but will continue to help the Jr. Commission through the end of this cohort. She presented at an elementary school about having rights.

Commissioner Cruz Reyes reported that the Jr. Commission is finalizing their presentation for the adult Commission. They are scheduling interviews for the new cohort. The Jr. Commission received an invitation from Raven Performing Arts Theatre to start an event with them where they can have more discussions on school violence. They offered the Commission to share materials at their event.

5.LGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee is still meeting with Wake Up Sonoma. Commissioner Cruz Reyes attended a Sonoma town meeting on February 23rd. They presented on the issue about people who are buying multiple properties that have homophobic views. They are asking for the Commission's support.

6.People with Disabilities Ad Hoc Committee- Commissioner Sapper shared an observation that homelessness has a link to special needs and disabilities.

7.Visibility Project is seeking a new chair to lead the ad hoc. Commissioner Madrigal can help train the new person to continue to help the community.

8. Commissioner Warwick recommended to speak up on the appointments and reappointments of commissioners. She thanked both Commissioners who didn't get reappointed for their service.

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

- 1. Write a letter collectively to ask for new appointees and bring forth to vote on
- 2. Resolution Proclamation National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women on May 5th

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.