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

Commissioners Present: First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large) Second District: Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair), Iliana Madrigal Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair)*, Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes Fourth District: Trevor Merrell* Fifth District: Nichole Warwick,	
First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large) Second District: Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair), Iliana Madrigal Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair)*, Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes Fourth District: Trevor Merrell* Fifth District: Nichole Warwick,	
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Fifth District: Nichole Warwick,	
Staff: Meira Bowcut	
Commissioners Absent:	
Second District: Yensi Jacobo	
Fifth District: D'Ayona Jerome, Lyndsey Burcina	

Meeting held virtually and in person

#### I. CALL TO ORDER - MISSION STATEMENT - ROLL CALL - ESCALANTE

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Escalante at 5:34 PM. Vice Chair read the mission statement. Roll call was taken by staff.

#### II. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 28, 2023 MINUTES – ESCALANTE

Vice Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 28, 2023. However, there was an error on the date. Minutes were for February 28, 2023.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sapper	Ayes: 6	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Cruz Reyes	Absent:4	Abstained: 1

Commissioner Jerome, Burcina, and Jacobo were absent. Commissioner Merrell 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, two (2) 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. Commissioner Jacobo introduced the Jr. Commissioners and Jr. Commission's Educational Justice Committee presented on school safety wellness and intersectionality on Sonoma campuses. They are analyzing data from Youthtruth, school and personal data from staff and students. Their current finding s are the distrust of adults on campus, the school environment, and the distrust of administrators. More support and trust in adults would help students long term along with mental health support. The presentation led to a Q and A session where the Commissioners asked questions. The adult Commission invited the Jr. Commission to provide them with a final report on their findings on their topic. No action was taken.

2. Vice Chair led a discussion on centering the youth and elevating students' voices on school violence. The discussion highlighted issues such as student's relationship with adults needs to be restored, the concern of actions being seem performative instead of addressing the inequity occurring on campuses, and the issue of the lack of mental health resources for the youth. The Commission will further discuss this topic. No action was taken.

2. Reuben Crowfeather Sr. presented on the purpose of the Indigenous People's Day event happening on May 20 and May 21, 2023, at the Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa. This event is to bring indigenous cultures together from Spanish to English indigenous communities and to share their culture with the community. He invited the Commission to attend the event with their families and friends. He provided an overview of activities for each day. The Commission had already approved sponsorship for this event through the Indigenous People's Ad Hoc work plan. No action was taken.

4. This month's featured community spotlight was Iliana Madrigal with the Commission on Human Rights. Vice Chair Escalante said words of appreciation before Chair Phillips read Madrigal's resolution. She is honored for her activism for language, social, and environmental justice for the communities of color. She is a beacon of leadership to the Mexican and Spanish speaking communities of Sonoma County. Iliana Madrigal thanked the Commission for the recognition. Many Commissioners added their comments on Mrs. Madrigal's positive contribution to the community.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner WarwickAyes: 7Noes: 0Second: Commissioner SapperAbsent:3Abstained: 1Commissioner Jerome, Burcina and Jacobo were absent. Vice Chair Escalanteabstained due to leading the meeting. Motion passed.

5. Chair Phillips began sharing last year's experience. They weren't prepared for the parade contest, but she will find out more details for this year's contest to be prepared. Chair Phillips invited the Jr Commission and all the Commissioners to participate in the parade and to table. Motion to approve \$500 for tabling and marching at the Sonoma County Pride Parade 2023.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner LopezAyes: 7Noes: 0Second: Commissioner WarwickAbsent:3Abstained: 1Commissioner Jerome, Burcina and Jacobo were absent. Vice Chair Escalanteabstained due to leading the meeting. Motion passed.

### 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.Staff asked the Commission for an update on those Commissioners who need name tags, name plates, and business cards.
- Commissioner Sapper reported about his communication with the Board of Supervisors as well as attending the March 14<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting and commented on behalf of the Commission.
- 3. Staff reminded everyone about in person meetings and the requirements to meet quorum in person. Staff will email the Commission the "Just Cause" and "Emergency Circumstances" chart.

## VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

1.Outreach & Communication Ad Hoc Committee invited more Commissioners to join the ad hoc. Chair Phillips and Vice Chair Escalante attended the Palm's Inn rally. 2. Immigrants' Rights Ad Hoc reported on The Registry Bill that would allow immigrants to apply for green cards if they lived in the U.S. for 7 years and are in good standing. Mujeres from ALMAS organized conferences and the next step in this campaign is a march on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from Sonoma County to San Francisco then followed by a National Boycott on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Lopez is attending and will represent the Commission in the Coalition.

3. Indigenous People Ad Hoc reported on the call to action from last meeting with Inter-Tribal of California to create a resolution on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Peoples (MMII) and to help with a gathering event. Supervisor Gore advised the Commission to pause the resolution. Marissa Montenegro is the tribal liaison and the ad hoc reached out to her and invited her to meet with the ad hoc. The ad hoc is working to build relationships with more organizations regarding this topic. Commissioner Warwick reported out on Bill AB 99, the use of pesticides. Many tribes use plants as medicinal and reducing pesticides will help protect their health and others.

4. Junior Commission on Human Rights reported that the unhoused population ad hoc will present in the future. The Jr. Commission will present to the BOS soon. Invited the Commission to the play at the Raven Theater. Recruitment started for

next cohort and the deadline is April 21, 2023.

5.LGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee had no updates to report.

6.People with Disabilities Ad Hoc Committee invited new Commissioners to join. Commissioner Sapper is exploring the link between homelessness and disabilities. He continues to communicate with the BOS on the SDC issues. Vice Chair Escalante brought up the partnership with Celeste Winders to draft a resolution declaring reading as a human right.

7.Visibility Project reported that Commissioner Madrigal will continue to be the Chair of this ad hoc.

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

- 1. Draft a resolution on condemning the use of SROs on school campuses -the implementation of officers
- 2. Nominations and elections
- 3. Pesticides Presentation by Nichole Warwick
- 4. Omar Gallardo LandPaths for Community Spotlight

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.