

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

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**Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

**5:30PM**

**Hybrid**

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**Commissioners Present:**

**First District:** Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Sarah Kerlow\*

**Second District:** Yensi Jacobo, Andrew Lemarquand\*

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

**Fourth District:** Trevor Merrell

**Fifth District:** Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

**Staff:** Meira Bowcut

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Second District:** Sadie Ferguson

**\*Commissioner Lemarquand attended via Zoom (AB 2449 Excuse)**

**\*Commissioner Lopez arrived late at approximately at 5:42PM**

**\* Commissioner Kerlow left early at approximately at 8:30 PM**

**Meeting held virtually and in person.**

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:34 PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement.

**II. COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT—PHILLIPS**

Chair Phillips introduced Janice Blalock as past Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and a member of the Human Trafficking Task Force. Chair Phillips read a resolution recognizing Janice Blalock as Community Human Rights Champion. Janice Blalock provided a presentation of her past, present, and future projects helping women and girls in Sonoma County. She is leaving the Commission on the Status of Women but will be joining the Board for Verity. Her work in Sonoma County will continue.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2023 MINUTES – PHILLIPS**

Motion to approve the November 28, 2023 Minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Warwick

Absent:1

Abstained: 1

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

**IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS**

1. Chair Phillips announced an opening in the Second District, two in the Fourth District, and two in the Fifth District.
2. Commissioner Warwick was asked to take the Vice-Chair position for the remainder of the term since Elizabeth Escalante will no longer be a commissioner. Commissioner Warwick approved and motion to have her be Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Cruz Reyes           Ayes: 8           Noes: 0  
Second: Commissioner Sapper           Absent:1        Abstained: 1  
Commissioner Ferguson was absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS**

No Public Comment.

**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. Chair Phillips asked for volunteers for Farmworker Resources Fair on Sunday, March 3rd from 1:30pm-4pm at Agatha Furth Center, Redwood Hwy, Windsor, CA 95492.
2. Chair Phillips announced that SRJC Petaluma will have a Free Future Social Justice Conference on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2:30pm.
3. Chair Phillips shared that Human Trafficking Awareness Month Gold Resolution was presented at Board of Supervisors meeting earlier that day and that she couldn't be there.
4. Commissioner Warwick provided an update with regards to West County Unified School district deadnaming of trans students in their yearbook. Due to the holiday, they didn't follow-up on the letter. They will meet with affected youth to be able to advise the Commission on what they would like to see in terms of restoration and mediation processes from this experience.

**VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Visibility Project reminded everyone that there's a reporting tool on the Visibility Project page on the Commission's website, and they can report any unjust, discriminatory, or racist in the community. They are working on preparing the data from last year to share it during a meeting.
2. Just Migration Reform reported on a meeting the Coalition had. There will be a February Washington March and another *Caminata*. Letters are being sent as support.
3. Youth Commission on Human Rights shared that they had their fifth meeting. They covered how city council and Board of Supervisors worked, and hopefully they will come to one of their meetings.
4. Collective Care Response Team have been working with women survivors from domestic violence in Sonoma County who are now trying to protect their children

from the same perpetrators, but they really don't have a chance to escape from when it comes to custody. They had a member share her story that can be related to many of the other women in the team.

## **VIII. REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. Chair Phillips read the Ceasefire letter on the war in Israel and Goza. Commissioners commented on the content of the statement first to about 134 members of the public, in-person and via Zoom. After discussing the content of the statement, they opened the floor for public comment. They had about 30 written public comments and 60 members of the public speak during public comment. After about 3 hours of public comment, the Commission felt they would need additional time to digest the community comments and to revise their statement. No action was taken.
2. Chair Phillips read the Black History Gold Resolution. The resolution will be presented on February 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:30pm. No discussion occurred. Motion to approve the resolution.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Warwick                      Ayes: 7                      Noes: 0  
Second: Commissioner Sapper                      Absent: 2                      Abstained: 1  
Commissioner Ferguson and Kerlow were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair.  
Motion passed.

3. The remainder of the agenda items were postponed for February 27, 2024 meeting.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.