

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

Thursday, February 22, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

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

Second District: Yensi Jacobo, Andrew Lemarquand*, Sadie Ferguson

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:

First District: Sarah Kerlow

***Commissioner Lemarquand attended via Zoom per Gov't. Code Section 54953(b) at this location: 1094 Petaluma Blvd S, Petaluma, CA 94952.**

Meeting held virtually and in person.

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

Before meeting was call to order, Vice Chair Warwick led everyone with a breathing exercise right after Commissioner Sapper read the meeting conduct guidelines. Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:40 PM. Roll call was taken by staff.

II. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Chair Phillips read the revised Ceasefire letter on the war in Israel and Goza. Commissioners commented on the content of the letter first to about 71 members of the public, in-person and via Zoom. Commissioners Merrell and Cruz Reyes suggested edits to the revised letter. They opened the floor for public comment. They had about 9 written public comments and 39 members of the public speak during public comment. Of those public comments, 4 opposed the letter completely and 35 were in favor of the letter. Out of the 35 in favor of the letter, 21 supported the letter as written and 14 supported the letter with the suggested edits to the letter. There were two motions on the table.

First motion: To approve the letter as is without any amended edits.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 2

Noes: 6

Second: Commissioner Ferguson

Absent: 1

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Kerlow was absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion failed.

Second motion: To approve the letter with the amended edits:

- a. Change the first sentence to *In light of the severe human rights violations occurring in Gaza, Palestine, and Israel*
- b. Third paragraph after We condemn war to add *genocide, and terrorism*. For grammatical purposes change *We condemn war, genocide, and terrorism. We recognize we cannot stop this as divided communities.*
- c. Fourth paragraph, to be more inclusive add *innocent people including* instead of men, women, children. Add another sentence that say *We call for a ceasefire*. Last sentence of the fourth paragraph, add *and humanitarian aid can reach those in need.*
- d. Last paragraph, add *anti-Arab violence*

Motion: Commissioner Lopez

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Ferguson

Absent: 1

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Kerlow was absent. Commissioner Sapper abstained, but changed his vote. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.