

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

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Sarah Kerlow, Maria Barakat

Second District: Sadie Ferguson

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

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell*, Irmina Benson, Cecilia Sofranko

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

Commissioners Absent:

Second District: Andrew Lemarquand

Third District: Isabel Lopez

***Commissioner Merrell arrived at approximately 5:40pm**

Meeting held virtually and in person.

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:36PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement. Roll call taken by Staff.

II. COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT– PHILLIPS

This month’s community spotlight was Education Refuge founded by Matthew Lee, a current Youth Commissioner and Anjay Singla. It’s a place for safe learning that matches refugees in need to their services with a qualified tutor. They would like to eliminate some of the educational inequalities and help lift students to succeed as they pursue their dreams from the power of learning.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 28, 2024 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

No Discussion. Motion to approve the May 28, 2024 Minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Barakat

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Lemarquand and Lopez were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Chair Phillips announced one (1) opening in the Second District. She introduced Mason Koski and Nox Riley who will be appointed on July 9, 2024 for the Fifth District.

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. Staff announced the Commission did spend their allocated budget.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Visibility ad hoc is revamping promotional material like stickers and tablecloth with CHR logo. We made a sticker with the QR code. They bought educational items for younger kids and for humans in general to learn about human rights and local issues. They bought glass water bottles to promote health wellness. They will start preparing their report to the BOS.
2. Just Migration Reform ad hoc didn't report out.
3. Youth Commission Project announced they interviewed applicants, and 12 students will be joining next cohort. They went to meet with Jared Huffman at a LGBTQ2+ round table at SRJC where students were able to share with community members that trans students are having a hard time in schools, discuss bathroom safety, and they voiced that they are still experiencing a lot of discrimination. Youth Commissioners were in a safe place to share their thoughts and hear others as well on this issue.
4. Collective Care Response Team is having their final gathering of the fiscal year. They accomplished so much this year with legal and policy issues, and they felt appropriate to come together to celebrate all their accomplishments and have a relaxing time. They have the court watch project in place, and it has been successful, but judges are closing court rooms because they have noticed the court watchers in courtrooms.

VIII. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Vice Chair Warwick read Gun Violence Awareness Month Resolution and led the discussion. This resolution was written by Mason Koski and moved forward by Vice Chair Warwick. Mason Koski updated the data for 2024: 294 mass shootings, 369 people killed and 1171 wounded. Commissioners would like this issue to be forwarded to congressmen, representatives, and the Board of Supervisors in a letter format. Commissioner Benson recommended to site the data in the letter. Motion to pass the Gun Violence Awareness Month Resolution with the updated data.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Cruz Reyes

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Lemarquand and Lopez were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Vice Chair Warwick presented Yensi Jacobo a resolution to honor her as a Champion of Human Rights. Yensi Jacobo was on the Commission as Co-Chair of the Youth Commission on Human Rights since 2022 cultivating youth leadership and justice advocacy, and revitalizing youth programming. Motion to approve the resolution.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sapper Ayes: 9 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Cruz Reyes Absent: 2 Abstained: 1
Commissioners Lemarquand and Lopez were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

3. Nominations and Elections

Chair Phillips read the qualifications and descriptions of the Officer roles.

Chair: Commissioner Sapper nominated Commissioner Phillips as Chair; Phillips accepted.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Sapper nominated Commissioner Warwick; Warwick accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Warwick nominated Commissioner Cruz Reyes; Cruz Reyes accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Sofranko nominated Commissioner Merrell; Merrell accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Phillips nominated Commissioner Sapper; Sapper accepted.

Election for Officer-At-Large

Cruz Reyes: 8 Merrell: 6 Sapper: 2

Abstained: Benson and Phillips

Motion to approve the slate of officers: Chair: Commissioner Phillips, Vice Chair: Commissioner Warwick, Officer-At-Large: Cruz Reyes and Merrell.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Warwick Ayes: 9 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Barakat Absent: 2 Abstained: 1
Commissioners Lemarquand and Lopez were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

4. The Commission voted between Kath King and Lend A Hand to be the 2024 Kathleen Finigan Award recipient. Kathy King received 5 votes and Lend A Hand received 4 votes. No public comment. The 2024 Kathleen Finigan Award will go to Kathy King. It will be presented in a different meeting.
5. The surveillance technology ordinance letter got postponed to next meeting because Commissioners didn't have time to review it prior to the meeting.
6. Commissioner Barakat reported on the conditions in the County Jail. She reached out to a reporter from The Press Democrat who has looked at this situation for a year and determined that there are viable complaints and evidence that there are violations such as at least Title 15 Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities classified by the California Board of State and Community Corrections. Her recommendation is to formally investigate this issue and take it to the BOS. No action was taken at this meeting.
7. Staff led the discussion on the strategic planning meeting. It will be on Saturday, July 27th at 10am-2pm at 575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, Ca. Staff went over the logistics of the meeting and shared a workplan template to use.
8. Commissioners Sapper and Barakat led the discussion on issues with affordable housing. They shared issues from different affordable housing locations and those issues might perceive as human rights violations. There are three major issues: housing rent amount was unethically raised, security for individuals, and sub leasing. They believe it's a systemic problem. Legal Aid is working on this issue already and the Commission will connect with them. Commissioners Sapper and Barakat will be taking the lead on this issue.

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

No meeting on July 23, 2024.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.