



**Agenda**  
**County of Sonoma**  
**Commission on Human Rights – Regular Meeting**

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**Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

**5:30PM**

**Hybrid**

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**First District:** Howard Sapper, Maria Barakat, Daniel H Sohn

**Second District:** Andrew Lemarquand\*, Sadie Ferguson, Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

**Third District:** Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes (Officer-at-Large)

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

**Fifth District:** Lyndsey Burcina, Nick Thayer

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

**Meeting Information:**

The January 28, 2025 Commission on Human Rights Meeting will be facilitated in person. Members of the public can watch, listen, or join the meeting using one of the three following methods:

**1. Join in person:**

Human Resources Large Training Room  
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Limited seating is available for public participants.

**2. Join virtually via Zoom:**

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application. Go to:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99356615285?pwd=UUISNIIIDQkUvTitzTWQ5bnNkL2NBUT09>

Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285

Passcode: 575862

**3. Join in Zoom by telephone:**

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128

Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285

Passcode: 575862

**Instructions for the Public:**

In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconference Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the Commission on Human Rights meetings will be facilitated using a dual format with listening and participation available through Zoom and in person.

**Agendas and Materials:** Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the Commission's website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Human-Rights/Calendar/> Due to legal,

copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. **Materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission at [chr@sonoma-county.org](mailto:chr@sonoma-county.org)**

**Disabled Accommodation:** If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Deputy Clerk at (707) 565-1851, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

**Approval of the Consent Calendar:** The Consent Calendar includes routine financial and administrative actions that are usually approved by a single majority vote. There will be no discussion on these items prior to voting on the motion unless Commission Members request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

**Public Comment:** Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda: Members of the public are invited to join this meeting via Zoom teleconferencing. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Each person is usually granted three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Commission, under the Brown Act, Commission members may not deliberate or take any action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

**Commitment to Civil Engagement:** All are encouraged to engage in respectful dialog that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. Commissioners, Staff, and the public are encouraged to:

- Create an atmosphere of respect and civility where Commissioners, County Staff, and the Public are free to express their ideas within the time and content parameters established by the Brown Act and CHR's standard Parliamentary procedures (Robert's Rules of Order);
- Establish and maintain a cordial and respectful atmosphere during discussions;
- Foster meaningful dialogue free of attacks of a personal nature and/or attacks based on age, (dis)ability, class, education level, gender, gender identity, occupation, race and/or ethnicity, sexual orientation;
- Listen with an open mind to all information, including dissenting points of view, regarding issues presented to the Commission;
- Recognize it is sometimes difficult to speak at meetings, and out of respect for each person's perspective, allow speakers to have their say without comment or body gestures, including booing, whistling, or clapping.

I. **Call To Order – Mission Statement – Roll Call – Phillips (5 min)**

II. **Japanese American Citizen League Presentation- Lemarquand (20 min)**

Bruce Shimizu will be presenting on the Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League and the internment of Japanese Americans from Sonoma County during the WWII period, and the long standing impacts that it has had on multiple generations of Sonoma County Japanese American community members.

**III. Consent Items– Phillips (5 Min)**

1. Approval of the October 22, 2024 meeting minutes
2. Approval of the special meeting November 19, 2024 minutes

**IV. Openings and appointments– Phillips (10 min)**

1. Oath of Office of Lyndsey Burcina and Nick Thayer representing the Fifth District.
2. Openings - one (1) in the Fourth District and one (1) in the Fifth District.

**V. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items – Phillips**

Public comment is limited to **two** minutes per topic or **four** minutes when using interpretation services.

**VI. Officer Reports and Administrative Updates (2 min)**

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

1. New email addresses and business cards

**VII. Ad Hoc Committee and Project Committee Updates (10 min)**

Commissioners to provide reports and/or updates from the work being done by their ad hoc committee(s) and/or project committee(s).

**VIII. Regular Calendar – Discussion and possible action on items below**

**1. 2025 Black History Month Resolution-Phillips (5 Min)**

Adopt a resolution to honor Black History Month Resolution

**2. Adopting a Resolution Acknowledging Historical Injustices and Preventing Future Human Rights Violations- Lemarquand (5 Min)**

Adopt a resolution that was vetted by the elected leaders of the Japanese American Citizen League/the community elders of the Sonoma County Japanese Community who lived through the injustice.

**3. Sonoma County Visibility Project Name change- Lemarquand (10 Min)**

Vote on a new name for phase 2 of the Visibility Project.

**4. Immigration and Sanctuary Support-Phillips (10 Min)**

Discussion on how to support the community and perhaps granting authority to the Officers to respond to the community faster on this topic.

**IX. Additional Agenda Items for The Next Commission Meeting– Phillips**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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**Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

**5:30PM**

**Hybrid**

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**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Second District:** Andrew Lemarquand\*, Sadie Ferguson

**Third District:** Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes (Officer-at-Large)

**Fourth District:** Irmina Benson\*\*, Cecilia Sofranko

**Commissioners Absent:**

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

**Fourth District:** Trevor Merrell (Officer-at-Large)

**Fifth District:** Mason Koski, Nox Riley

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

\*\*Commissioner Benson arrived late at approximately 5:51pm

**Meeting held virtually and in person.**

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:38PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 27, 2024 MINUTES – PHILLIPS**

No Discussion. Motion to approve the August 27, 2024 Minutes.

No Public Comment

Motion: Chair Phillips

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Barakat

Absent: 5

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Warwick, Merrell, Koski, and Riley were absent. Commissioner Benson arrived late to vote. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

**III. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS**

Chair Phillips announced one (1) opening in the First District and one (1) in the Fifth District.

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

No Public Comment.

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

1. **Housing and Homelessness Committee** are brainstorming possible projects to address stones that were covered on Joe Rodota Trail. Chair Phillips is working with a group called WEST (Women Empowerment Support Team) and they offered to decorate the stone for free. This would beautify the County. They also reported on the Sonoma housing situation. Many people moved out because they weren't comfortable.
2. **Disability Justice Ad Hoc** reached out to Face to Face to get masks and they are donating 160 masks. They will also be reaching out to the Health Department to get information to accompany the masks.
3. **Youth Commission Project** went to Earthseed Farm, which is an Afro indigenous focused farm out in Sebastopol. They had an event with the Junior Commission on the Status of Women. They had another event at the County building with guest speakers in the politics. Petaluma High School started their first Human Rights Club at the school with the Youth Commission's support. They reached out to Supervisor Rabbitt to speak at their meeting, and they are waiting to hear back. Maria Carrillo and Sonoma Academy also have clubs as well. Commissioner Benson and Yensi Jacobo helped apply for a Community Investment Fund Grant with County of Sonoma. Supervisor Coursey granted \$1,500 to the Youth Commission to do Outreach/Educational Events. The Youth Commission got invited to the first California Association of Youth Commission's meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **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 shared that many of them went to Andy's Unity Park for the 11<sup>th</sup> year memorial of the shooting of Andy Lopez.
2. Chair Phillips and Commissioner Cruz Reyes reported on their attendance to the League of Women Voters presentation on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Commission on the Status of Women posed very great questions to the League of Women Voters.
3. Chair Phillips will be getting the FACES exhibit to the Sonoma County Museum.

## **VII. COMMISSIONERS LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Chair Phillips and Staff went over Robert Rules and Brown Act to educate the Commission on Brown Act with an emphasis on teleconferencing and social media.

## **VIII. REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. **Sonoma County Visibility Project Work Plan Approval**  
Commissioner Lemarquand led the discussion to approve the Sonoma County Visibility Project work plan. He talked about what they removed on their work plan to address the Commission's feedback from the previous meeting. They removed digital collaboration capacity, the geolocation QR codes, the streamlined reporting channels to appropriate authorities, the AI driven analysis for identifying trends and the generation of actionable insight, and to facilitate reporting to relevant authorities. He also showed an example of how local resources will look on their site. It will look like the one that Peace and Justice Center has on their website. Motion to

approve of the work plan for the Visibility Project.

No Public Comment

Motion: Chair Phillips

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Barakat

Absent: 4

Abstained: 2

Commissioners Warwick, Merrell, Koski, and Riley were absent. Commissioner Benson abstained. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

## 2. Adult Prom Budget

Chair Phillips led the discussion to allocate \$1,000 to the Adult Prom Ad Hoc. She believes that the Commission should have a financial presence for the event. They will be asking for items to be donated as well. The money raised during this event will get donated. Motion to approve \$1,000 using the general fund budget to be allocated to the Adult Prom Ad Hoc.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Lopez

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Barakat

Absent: 4

Abstained: 2

Commissioners Warwick, Merrell, Koski, and Riley were absent. Commissioner Benson abstained due to being in the Board of Directors of Positive Images. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

## 2. Asphalt Situation

This item was postponed due to Vice Chair Warwick's absence.

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

- Update on the Surveillance Center
- November's meeting will be a special meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> instead of a regular meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>
- No meeting in December
- New name for the Visibility Project

## X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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

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**Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

**5:30PM**

**Hybrid**

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**Commissioners Present:**

**First District:** Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Maria Barakat\*

**Second District:** Andrew Lemarquand\*\*, Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

**Third District:** Katrina Phillips (Chair), Liz Cruz Reyes (Officer-at-Large)

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Second District:** Sadie Ferguson

**Third District:** Isabel Lopez

**Fourth District:** Trevor Merrell (Officer-at-Large), Irmina Benson, Cecilia Sofranko

**Staff:** Meira Bowcut

\*\*Commissioner Barakat attended via Zoom, but her attendance didn't count for quorum.

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER – PHILLIPS**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Phillips at 6:07PM. Commissioners Ferguson, Lopez, Benson, Sofranko, Merrell (Officer-at-Large) were unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07PM due to a lack of quorum.

## RESOLUTION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

### Acknowledging Historical Injustices and Preventing Future Human Rights Violations

WHEREAS, during World War II, Executive Order 9066 authorized the forcible removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, including thousands of Sonoma County residents, without due process or evidence of wrongdoing; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of those incarcerated were American citizens unjustly labeled as “enemy aliens”, and many were children who suffered the trauma of imprisonment solely based on their racial ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Japanese American families from Sonoma County were forced to abandon their homes, businesses, and property with only days' notice, facing severe economic losses, with the total loss of all Japanese Americans estimated at \$400 million in 1940s currency; and

WHEREAS, Japanese American men from Sonoma County bravely volunteered to serve in the U.S. military while their families remained imprisoned in camps under armed guard; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County's Japanese American service members were segregated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Infantry Battalion, which became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history, enduring devastating casualty rates that earned them the nickname "Purple Heart Battalion", with one company starting with 185 men and ending with only eight surviving Soldiers; and

WHEREAS, these Nisei (American Born of Japanese Ancestry) Veterans fought with extraordinary valor while their families remained imprisoned, earning over 18,000 individual decorations including Multiple Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, and thousands of Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars and Silver Stars, demonstrating unparalleled patriotism despite facing institutional racism and the incarceration of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County's Nisei Veterans and their families were forced to rebuild their lives without community reintegration support or services to address their prisoner of war experiences and combat trauma, facing continued discrimination even while wearing their military uniforms, and many Veterans struggled silently with PTSD while simultaneously supporting their traumatized families who had been imprisoned; and

WHEREAS, upon release, many Japanese American families faced potential property loss in Sonoma County due to their inability to pay property taxes while incarcerated, only preserved through the compassionate intervention of their neighbors from Sonoma County, that included the Sonoma County Jewish community; and



WHEREAS, the intergenerational trauma of incarceration continues to affect Japanese American families in Sonoma County, manifesting in silence, shame, and suppressed cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, similar discriminatory legislation targeting Asian Americans continues to emerge in various counties around the United States, including recent laws aimed at restricting property ownership rights of Chinese nationals and Americans of Chinese descent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights:

1. Formally acknowledges this grave injustice and violation of civil and human rights perpetrated against Japanese Americans in our community;
2. Recognizes the profound intergenerational impact of racial trauma and Combat Related PTSD on Japanese American families in Sonoma County;
3. Commends the resilience of Japanese American community members, the extraordinary sacrifice of Nisei Veterans and their families, and the solidarity shown by community members who protected their properties;
4. Pledges to educate the community about this history to prevent similar injustices;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will work to preserve these stories of injustice, sacrifice, and resilience, ensuring that future generations understand the importance of protecting human rights and civil liberties for all people.

Adopted this [DATE] day of [MONTH], 2024  
Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

[CHAIRPERSON'S SIGNATURE]  
[SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE]



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

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Date: February 4, 2025

Item Number:

Resolution Number:

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Majority Vote Required

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**Resolution of The Board of Supervisors of The County of Sonoma, State of California,  
Proclaiming February 2025 as Black History Month in Sonoma County.**

**Whereas**, our Nation, State and County were built upon the dedication, hopes, and struggle of “slaves”, “indentured servants”, “willing tenants”, “domestic help” etc., we in Sonoma County hold space and seek a remedy for the shame, distrust and pain experienced by Black diaspora in our County through open communication and Non-Violence; and

**Whereas**, Sonoma County is remembering our county’s ties to slavery, recognizing the immense love planted in our roots, or seeing the connections for the first time, this is the beginning of our healing. Our healing must happen on all sides, we must recognize the truth and power in our love to stop the intergenerational cycle of hatred; and

**Whereas**, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr stated, “What is needed is a realization that Power without Love is reckless and abusive, and that Love without Power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is Love implementing the demands of Justice. Justice at its best is Love correcting EVERYTHING that stands against Love; and

**Whereas**, Black History Month is habitually seen as the celebration of additions to our society provided by people who are BIPOC, African Americans, Blacks, let Sonoma County be the first to see February as more! Let us see Black History Month as a time of honesty, communication, and healing to honor the legacy and current accomplishments of Black people in Sonoma County; and

Resolution #24-

Date:

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**Whereas**, Dr Martin Luther King stated in 1968, “We shall overcome because the arc of the Moral Universe is long, but it bends towards Justice.”

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors acknowledge and proclaim February 2025 as Black History Month in Sonoma County.

**Supervisors:**

Hermosillo:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**