



Byran Rustin Award Ceremony

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

In-Person Meeting, 5:30 p.m. – 7: 30 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers | 202 C. Street, 12th Floor, SD, CA 92101

Zoom Access: HRC Zoom Link

Chair: Tootie Thomas | Vice Chair: Tyler Duncan | Secretary: Ryan Trabuco

Commissioners: Olympia Beltran, Rickie Brown, Faye Detsky-Weil, Yessica Diaz-Roman, April Purcell, Daneyel Walker, MH Fields, Sara Brown

Executive Director: Gerald Brown

Public Comment

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Board on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the Board hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Board on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Board to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Board may add the item to a future meeting agenda or refer the matter to staff or committee.

Individuals' comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item.

Item 1: Call to Order/Welcome	Chair Tootie Thomas
Item 2: Action: Roll Call	Vice Chair Tyler Duncan
Item 3: San Diego Martin Luther King Jr. Choir	Commissioner MH Fields
Item 4: Introduction of Dignitaries	Chair Tootie Thomas
California Secretary of State	Honorable Dr. Shirley Weber
County of San Diego District Attorney	Honorable Summer Stephan, JD
Mayor of San Diego	Honorable Todd Gloria
Director of the Office of Boards and Commissions	Chida Warren-Darby
Item 5: Bayard Rustin Award Ceremony	Chair Tootie Thomas

AWARDEES



Bruce L. Cohen- Co-Producer of “Rustin”, A film based on the life and work of Bayard Rustin

“He challenged authority, never apologized for who he was, what he believed, or who he desired. And he did not back down. He made history, and in turn, he was forgotten.”



Dwain Woodley- San Diego County Assistant District Attorney

Dwain Woodley is a trailblazing legal professional and public servant, widely recognized as a pioneer in his field. Woodley achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first African American male to hold the esteemed position of City Attorney for Oceanside.

After an exemplary service in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1989 to 1995, where he served as both a prosecutor and defense counsel, Woodley continued to make an impact in the legal arena. Following his military service, he then later served as staff attorney for Office of General Counsel at the National Security Agency.



In 2001, Dwain Woodley transitioned to the District Attorney's Office, marking a pivotal moment in his career. Over the years, he ascended through the ranks, demonstrating his legal prowess and leadership abilities. Woodley held various management positions within the District Attorney's Office, including chief of the Central Pretrial and Disposition Division, assistant chief and chief of the Superior Court Division, chief of the Juvenile Branch, and chief of the South Bay Branch.

His multifaceted experience as both a former public defender and deputy district attorney provided Woodley with a unique perspective and a comprehensive understanding of the criminal justice system. In 2008, he stepped into management, a role he embraced with dedication and expertise.

Dwain Woodley's contributions to the legal community are not only evident in his extensive career but also in his recent appointment as the chief deputy district attorney for the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. As the second-in-command his position showcases his continued commitment to public service and leadership within the legal realm.

Throughout his career, Woodley has been a champion for justice, equality, and community engagement. His legacy is not only defined by his groundbreaking achievements but also by his unwavering dedication to upholding the principles of fairness and integrity within the legal system. Dwain Woodley stands as a beacon of inspiration, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations of legal professionals.



Kim Desmond - Chief of Race and Equity for the City of San Diego

Kim Desmond was born and raised in the Five Points neighborhood in Denver, Colorado where she graduated from Manual High School. Kim has over 15 years of experience in the non-profit, local, and quasi-government sector within the areas of diversity, inclusion, racial equity, and addressing systemic racism.

Kim holds multiple degrees, including a Bachelor's in Sociology from Fort Hays State University, a Master's in Community Counseling from Fort Hays State University, a Master's in Education Administration and Policy Studies from the University of Denver, and an Early Childhood Leadership certification from the University of Denver.

She is currently the Chief of Race and Equity for the City of San Diego, leading the Office of Race and Equity for Mayor Todd Gloria. Prior to this appointment, Kim served as the Director and Interim Chief



Equity Officer for Mayor Michael B. Hancock, overseeing the Mayor's Office of Social Equity and Innovation within the City and County of Denver.

Kim has an extensive background operationalizing racial equity into local government programs, budget allocations, and policies through building equitable outcomes with a targeted focus on eliminating systemic racism.

- Policy and Operations: Improving policy, service delivery and equitable distribution of resources to ensure that priorities of equity are integrated in key programs, practices, and budget decisions.
- Implementation: Coordinating and developing city-wide Race and Equity offices through normalizing racial equity tools and social justice practices across two large local government systems comprised of over 11,000 employees.
- Learning and Development: Designing curriculum and facilitating training on racial equity and inclusion that contextualizes historic oppression, systemic racism, and implicit/explicit biases to guide departments on building equitable outcomes.
- Evaluation, Assessment and Process Improvement: Creating infrastructure and systems to evaluate equitable outcomes and integrate Racial Equity Tools.



Marcus Bush- Vice-Mayor and Councilmember, National City, CA.

Marcus Bush is a proud father of 3, lifelong National City resident and current Councilmember for National City, CA.

Born to an African American father from Thomasville, GA and a Mexican American mother from Ontario, OR, CM Bush grew up in National City, earned a Bachelor of Arts in City Planning from San Diego State University and his Master's in Real Estate Development from the Portland State University School of Business.

In 2011, Bush was appointed to the Civil Service Commission and in 2013 was appointed to the Planning Commission. He became the youngest Planning Commission Chair in the city's history at age 26 in 2015. He also served on the Board of Directors for the National City Chamber of Commerce and President of the National City Rotary Club.



Bush has worked since 2020 as a project manager for MAAC, a nonprofit developing affordable housing in the San Diego region.

When he was elected to City Council in November of 2020, CM Bush made history as the first Afro-Latino, first openly-LGBTQ councilmember, and first Millennial elected in National City.

CM Bush is focused on addressing the housing & homelessness crisis, environmental health & climate change, and supporting small businesses. One of his biggest accomplishments was leading the effort to repeal the ban on cruising in National City – a discriminatory law instituted in 1992 that criminalizes an activity enjoyed predominantly by Black and Brown communities. This effort grew into a statewide movement and legislation (AB 436) that was signed by Governor Newsom in 2023 that repealed all cruising bans in cities throughout the state beginning in 2024.



Tracy Jada O'Brien - Trans Health & Recovery Advocate

Since surviving the mean streets of San Francisco's Tenderloin District in the 1970s as a young transgender street kid, Tracie Jada O'Brien has persevered and worked tirelessly to become an outstanding role model and a staunch advocate for San Diego's and the nation's transgender communities. Professionally she has provided years of life-saving work to the LGBTQIA community as an addiction's treatment counselor and Director of out-patients services at renowned Steppingstone of San Diego. After experiencing her own challenges in obtaining transition related healthcare, that is imperative to the wellbeing of people diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria, she was provided an opportunity to coordinate Southern California's first Transgender Support and Care program named Project S.T.A.R. (Supporting Transgender Access to Resources) in 2004. Now in its 20 th year Tracie is still providing life affirming care to San Diego's Transgender/ Non-Binary community, something that is crucial in this current political climate.

Shortly after coordinating Project Star in 2004, Tracie founded San Diego's Transgender Day of Empowerment an event that is in direct contrast to the somberness of Transgender Day of Remembrance (a worldwide event set aside to honor those in the Transgender community that were



murdered for often SIMPLY existing) , a time for the community to celebrates its rich diversity, triumphs, and survival. In 2016 the Tracie Jada O'Brien, Transgender Student Scholarship program was launched, providing monetary support to young Transgender/Non-binary seeking higher education and training. This program has provided over \$ 20,000.00 to its deserving students.

Nationally, she is known for her groundbreaking work with Stone Wall Legend Miss Major Griffin-Gracy's House of GG /tilifi (telling it like it F**king is) locate in Little Rock, Arkansas. House of GG provides a transformative space where Transgender women of color can begin to heal – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually from the trauma arising from generations of transphobia, racism, sexism, poverty, and violence and NUTURE them into tomorrow's leaders!



Myesha Jackson- Educator, California SA's: Woman Leaders in the Seventy-Ninth District

Myesha Jackson has over twenty years of combined experience in K-12 and higher education, instruction, operations, and management as well as extensive community-based organization work and entrepreneurial small business ownership.

She has worked extensively with career education programs and program funds to promote the development of services and activities that integrate academic, career and technical instruction, and that link secondary and postsecondary education, in addition to developing and leveraging partner collaborations.

Myesha served in various positions at the Southwestern Community College District over the last 8 years and 5 of those years as the Director of Continuing Education.

In that role she was responsible for contract education, noncredit, community services (fee-based), and special projects including but not limited to the expansion of the Y.E.S. Academy (formerly College for Kids), California Adult Education Program (CAEP), the Apprenticeship Readiness Program (ARP), and the Affordable Housing Management Program. These projects meet students where they are and provide the opportunity for personal enrichment, workforce readiness, career advancement and pathways to the credit program.



As an educator, she has committed her work towards student success and achievement with emphasis on centering advocacy for racial equity and marginalized groups in all her efforts.

As a servant and transformative leader, she proudly fosters good working relationships built on mutual respect and valuing the uniqueness of the individual. At the Jacob Center for Neighborhood Innovation, she used her skills to support the team in the revitalization and growth of a stagnant youth program, developed intersegmental and collaborative partnerships with local high schools, and UCSD Extension, Media Arts Center, and Project New Village. While at Southwestern, and for her leadership and commitment to continuing education for all, she earned Goodwill Industries' "Good Neighbor Award." As co-chair of the Southwestern College Black Alliance, she earned California State Assembly's, "Woman Leaders in the Seventy-Ninth District in the field of Education Post-Secondary Award."

Myesha holds a Master of Business Administration Degree focusing on Organizational Leadership from Brandman University.

Myesha and her husband, Ervin, live in Murrieta with their children, Brittany, Ervin II, Ethan, grandson Jayce and dog, Ginger. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, listening to music, and watching movies.



Henry Lee Wallace - Chairman of the San Diego Black Panther Party actively politically uplifting and advocating for the end of racial discrimination and equality for LGBTQ community members including HIV positive community members

Henry Lee Wallace born on March 30, 1952, into a military family. His mother, Evelyn Wallace, was a housewife, and his father, Airforce Staff Sergeant Henry Lee Wallace IV, instilled discipline in him from an early age due to their military lifestyle. Henry's childhood involved frequent moves across California, following his father's deployments.

The family faced a significant change in 1960 when Henry's parents divorced. This event marked a turning point in Henry's life, prompting him to grow into a young man of action. At the tender age of 8, Henry's mother, aware of the challenges faced by Black individuals in the world, emphasized the importance of self-sufficiency.



With a keen understanding of the harsh realities of racism, Henry's mother empowered him to stand against discriminatory institutions and individuals. Henry went on to join the San Diego Original Black Panther Party for self-defense, where he received education on civil rights. The Black Panther Party not only taught him about racial equality but also emphasized effective communication and dialogue with individuals from various backgrounds, whether liberal, conservative, Democrat, or Republican.

Henry refused to allow the history of the Black Panther Party in San Diego fade away. Upon returning to San Diego, California after visiting the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, Henry Wallace was inspired to reactivate and re-establish San Diego's original Black Panther Party. Henry Wallace along with Ibrahim Fardan and Patrick Germany set out to let the world know about the sacrifices of the San Diego Regional Black Panther Party through oral history and video. Through the Party's rebirth Henry Wallace became an advocate for social justice and championed the Black Panther Party's efforts to address the plight of underprivileged children, seniors, hunger, and homelessness in San Diego. The organization also focused on educational outreach, providing vocational training, education, and promoting healthy living skills. Henry's involvement in the Black Panther Party extended beyond racial issues, as he supported LGBTIQ+ rights. In "My People Are Rising," the author highlighted the importance of equal freedoms for all Americans, advocating for a coalition between the Black Panther Party and the gay rights movement.

Henry Wallace's life journey reflects a commitment to justice, equality, and the pursuit of a better society for all.

The City of San Diego Human Relations Commission conducts and promotes activities that foster mutual respect and understanding. Protects basic human and civil rights and creates an atmosphere that promotes amicable relations among all members of the San Diego community.

Next: City of San Diego Human Relations Commission Meeting will be held **March 20th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at San Diego's City Hall, 12 Floor City Council Chambers.** If you have any questions or you would like find out joining the Commission please contact the Executive Director at (619)964-1064.