



Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

Hybrid Meeting, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

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Meeting ID: 291 250 502 091

Passcode: DQCTmR

Location: Balboa Park Club,
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101
Santa Fe Room

Chair: Susan Davis | **Vice Chair:** Wendy Urushima-Conn

Commissioners: Gail Friedt, Dana Toppel, Lakeya Cherry, Marlyn Carrillo, Natasha Wong, Sophie Tarazi

City Staff Liaison: Fatima Maciel

Item 1: Call to Order at 12:36 PM (Chair Davis)

Item 2: Roll Call (Chair Davis)

Present: Gail Freidt, Susan Davis, Natasha Wong, Sophie Tarazi, Wendy Urushima-Conn

Absent: Dana Toppel, Lakeya Cherry, Marlyn Carrillo,

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes (Chair Davis)

- Review of minutes from March 14, 2024 (Approved)

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Chair Kristine Suero of the County of San Diego Commission on the Status of Women and Girls introduced herself and provided an overview of the important work currently being carried out by the Commission.
 - Vice Chair Commissioners from the County also spoke and introduced themselves.
- Lori Saldana spoke out on her concerns about SDPD's failure to close out all testing rape kits. She noted that there is a large backlog in these tests. After

bringing this concern to the City Attorney immediately after it was announced that the testing kit backlog was cleared. However, there was no documentation to verify the validity of this statement. Ms. Saldana would like the Commission to consider the impacts that this backlog has had on survivors. She would like the Commission to consider writing a letter to SDPD Chief Wahl and City Attorney to request the documentation verifying that the rape testing kits were indeed tested and cleared. She believes that a thorough investigation would clarify these concerns and ensure that this type of backlog does not happen again.

Item 5: Discussion on Commission Elections

- Commission decided to hold off on elections until all vacancies are filled.

Item 6: Public Comment on Recap of Commission's meeting with Mayor Gloria 04.23.25 (Commissioners Freidt, Tarazi, and Carrillo)

- Lori Saldana noted that the largest most expensive lawsuits come from SDPD and Fire-Rescue. She wants to know if the budget accounts for these settlement agreements.

Item 6.1: Discussion Recap of Commission's meeting with Mayor Gloria 04.23.25 (Commissioners Freidt, Tarazi, and Carrillo)

- Commissioner met with Mayor to discuss several concerns and issues relating to CEDAW, the budget, and women.
- The Mayor was in support of CEDAW.
- The Mayor discussed the budget with the commissioners and gave them specific thoughts on Parks/Rec and Libraries
- They also discussed wanting to be more involved in the City in terms of attending events and being present
- Chair Davis wants the budget to reflect the needs and priorities of women and for the budget to consider that in their decisions. They understand the budget deficit but would like to understand why public safety continues to be prioritized over other issues.

Item 7: Action - Letter to Support our Libraries & Recognizing the Budget's Challenges/Impacts on Women (Commissioner Tarazi)

- Commissioners approved unanimously to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council addressing their budget concerns.

Item 8: Subcommittee Updates

- Commissioner Wong – Commissions' First Inaugural Tea Ceremony will be on August 10. The focus will be largely on women's mental health post-partum. There will be special guests speakers and free childcare. More details to come.

Item 9: Liaison Update (Liaison Maciel)

- Website Update
 - Calendar – Please continue to send women related events that you would like to see posted on our website.

- Resources – Please share resources you would like to see posted on the website.
- Partners – Remind our outreach subcommittee if they can share what partnerships they have created.
- CEDAW update – City Attorney Office’s noted that CEDAW had initial interest from CD 5’s Office but ultimately never moved beyond their office discussions. Should the Commissioners want to revive CEDAW again they would need a department or council member to carry it forward. They would like to revisit this discussion with CD 5 again.
- CA Commission on the Status of Women & Girls – The Commission is finally listed as a local commission on the state’s website.
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Item 10: Women’s Museum of California Tour

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

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