

Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Agenda Summary – July 11, 2025

Location: Serra-Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library, San Diego, CA

Attendance: Commissioners Davis, Cherry, Toppel, Friedt, and Carrillo

1. Approval of the Minutes – July 3, 2025 Special Meeting

Action Taken: A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

Outcome: The minutes were approved with one abstention.

2. Consideration of the Agenda

Action Taken: A motion to receive and adopt the July 11, 2025 agenda was discussed and passed.

3. Non-Agenda Public Comment

No comments were recorded in the transcript summaries.

4. Agenda Public Comment

No comments were recorded in the transcript summaries.

5. Action Item – Approval of Bylaw Changes

Discussion: Chair Davis introduced proposed bylaw changes.

Action Taken: A motion to approve the bylaw changes was made, seconded, and passed.

6. Action Item – Reestablishment of Subcommittees

Subcommittee Assignments

Policy & Advocacy

- Members: Gail Friedt, Sophie Tarazi, Dana Toppel
- Chair: Sophie Tarazi (suggested)

Marketing, Events, and Programming

- Members: Marlyn Carrillo, Natasha Wong, Wendy Urushima-Conn
- Chair: Marlyn Carrillo

Community Outreach

- Members: Lakeya Cherry, Susan Davis
- Chair: To be determined

Additional Notes

- The commission discussed the need to strengthen subcommittee effectiveness.
- Commissioner Carrillo recommended that subcommittees bring actionable, ready-to-vote items to full commission meetings.
- Commissioner Toppel emphasized increasing the frequency of subcommittee meetings and potentially reducing full commission meetings unless voting is required.

7. Discussion Item – Next Steps: Survey on Women's Disparities in the Workforce

Key Points

- The commission agreed that the survey remains a useful tool for outreach and awareness, despite past limitations.

- Plans were made to refine survey results and share findings with City Council and the Mayor. The report will be submitted to the City Liaison, Fatima Maciel.
- Commissioners proposed expanding survey reach through strategic partnerships and digital channels, such as the Mayor's newsletter.
- Commissioner Cherry emphasized aligning the survey content with the broader goals of the commission.
- The Marketing, Events, and Programming Subcommittee was identified to lead the survey promotion. Commissioners Carrillo and Davis suggested the survey be distributed before the end of the year.

Action Items

- The Marketing, Events, and Programming Subcommittee will lead the development and promotion of the next survey.
 - A strategic planning session will be scheduled to integrate survey findings into future commission objectives.
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8. Discussion Item – CEDAW Study Costs and Funding Strategy

Key Points

- Commissioner Toppel provided an overview of projected funding requirements and a planning timeline aiming for completion by the end of the upcoming year.
- CEDAW Rising was cited as a valuable resource for advocacy models and templates.
- Strategic advocacy was emphasized as necessary for ensuring continued Mayoral support.
- Commissioner Cherry encouraged the commission to highlight successful City programs and seek more visibility.

Action Items

- Follow up with Fatima Maciel to connect Commissioner Carrillo with City departments and gather data on programs supporting women.
 - The Policy & Advocacy Subcommittee will lead CEDAW-related planning and integration.
 - Develop a strategic session and roadmap to secure future funding.
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9. Committee and Liaison Updates

Key Events

- **Women's Equality Day (August 26):**
 - Updates were provided on county partnerships and Girl Scouts recruitment.
 - Commissioner Carrillo will follow up on organizational RSVPs for event participation.
- **Workforce Partnership Meeting (August 1):**
 - County-focused meeting, relevant to workforce equity for women.
 - Commissioner Davis encouraged participation.

Additional Updates

- A strategic planning session will be led by the Policy & Advocacy Subcommittee.
- A shared commission calendar was developed and distributed by Commissioner Carrillo. The goal is to embed the calendar on the commission's website for broader accessibility.
- Commissioner Carrillo will document events through photography and digital summaries for outreach purposes.

Action Items

- Create and share a template for the upcoming strategic planning session (Carrillo/Toppel).

- Compile City department information related to women's initiatives (Carrillo with support from Fatima).
- Update and distribute the commission's shared calendar (Carrillo).
- Follow up on organizational outreach for the Women's Tea event (Carrillo).
- Invite the San Diego Women's Foundation to participate in the August 9 event (Davis).
- Ensure all commissioners have access to the calendar and collect Gmail addresses for access (Carrillo).
- Continue improving digital outreach and event documentation.