



Human Relations Commission

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, November 20, 2024

In-Person Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – 7: 30 p.m.

Location: San Diego Council Chamber s
202 C. Street, 12th Floor, SD, CA 92101

Commissioners: Olympia Beltran, Rickie Brown, Sara Brown, Faye Detsky-Weil, Yessica Diaz-Roman, Tyler Duncan, MH Fields, Julia Legaspi, April Purcell, Tootie Thomas, Ryan Trabuco, Daneyel Walker, Nicole Murray-Ramirez.

Staff Liaison Executive Director: Dr. Gerald Brown

Item 1: Call to Order:

Chair Tootie Thomas

Item 2: Commissioner Roll Call

Vice Chair Tyler Duncan

All Commissioners accounted for. Quorum established.

Item 3: Commission's Minutes

Chair Tootie Thomas

Minutes Approved

Item 4: Agenda/Non-agenda Public Comment

Exec. Dir. Gerald Brown

No Agenda/Non-Agenda Public Comments was requested.

Item 5: Commissioner Reports: Commissioners share what is going on in their communities, and respected City Council Districts. Commissioner Rickie Brown will address the Commission on planning for Black History Month.

Commissioner Rickie Brown brought forth the idea of Honoring African American during February 2025. This event would be separate from the Bayard Rustin Awards and Celebration. There was some discussion, and it was expressed that the Bayard Rustin event served as a representation of African American/Black Culture and therefore no need for additional event. Chair Thomas decided that we would place the item for discussion on the next upcoming agenda.

Item 6: RUTH "Remember US The Holocaust"

Founder Sandra Scheller

Mrs. Scheller is the daughter of Holocaust survivors Ruth and Kurt Sax. RUTH Remember Us the Holocaust was created by Sandra and her mother. The dress worn by her grandmother along with other original Holocaust items were passed to Sandra so that she could continue to raise Holocaust awareness through education. On January 12, 2025, at La Jolla Riford Library located- at 7555 Draper Avenue, La Jolla, CA. There will be an exhibit of Holocaust Souvenir, mementos. Sandra gave the Commissioners a brief PowerPoint Presentation. She said, "we need a Holocaust exhibit, center, or museum in San Diego now more than ever. With the support of our wonderful city, we can make this a reality. We are sharing the story of events that occurred 80 years ago, which are tragically being repeated today." The question is: who will share our story 80 years from now? Having a Holocaust Museum in San Diego would be the first of its kind.

Motion: To draft and send a letter in support of Ms. Scheller's event. "Remembering the Holocaust".
Motion made and seconded. Roll Call vote: Unanimous Consent.

Item 7: City of San Diego Title VI Program Christiana Gauger, Chief Compliance Officer

Director Gauger gave the Commission a brief PowerPoint overview of the City of San Diego Title VI Program. Title VI is a statute provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Section 601 states:

"No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

The City of San Diego strives to ensure that access to and use of all programs, services or benefits derived from any City activity will be administered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or socio-economic status.

The City will not tolerate discrimination by a city employee or recipients of Federal funds such as other agencies, contractors, consultants, suppliers, vendors, planning agencies and any other recipient of federal funds from the City.

Item 8: Subcommittee Reports Vice Chair Tyler Duncan

A. San Diego United Against Hate Week Success – Partnerships and Continuing the work.

B. Community Engagement Sub Committee Chair Tootie Thomas

Motion: Expand the CEC overall work plan to incorporate Media Outreach. This would include (but, not limited to) updating social media, publishing a quarterly HRC Newsletter. Referred to Committee for discussion.

Item 9: Standing Committee- Discrimination and Equal Protection Exec Dir. Gerald Brown

Documentation – Process and Procedures – No new report.

Training for Commissioners (Planned for Commission Retreat 2025)

Item 10: Executive Director Report

A. Mayoral Appointment – Elizabeth Fitzsimons – Exec Dir. said that he does not have a start date for her appointment yet.

B. Code of Conduct – Completed - Overview

C. Election December 2025 – Nominees – Please see the end of this agenda for the Leadership Positions available.

Item 11: Chair Report Chair Tootie Thomas

No report

Item 12: Vice Chair Report Vice Chair Tyler Duncan

No report

Item 13: Secretary Report Secretary Ryan Trabuco

No Report

Item 14: Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – All Commissioners in Favor

Next Meeting of the HRC December 18, 2024

San Diego Municipal Code:8

The Commissioners shall elect a Chair from among their members. The Chair shall serve at the pleasure of the members but for no longer than three years.

(f) The Commissioners may be removed for cause by a vote of a majority of the members of the City Council.

From Human Relations Commission’s Bylaws:

3.1 Officers

Officers shall be elected at the first Commission meeting of the calendar year for a term of one year. The officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson (Chair) and a Vice Chairperson (Vice Chair). The Vice Chair will serve as Chair in the event of the absence or unavailability of the Chair. The Commission may also deem necessary to have a secretary as a third officer. Each officer is elected from among the members of the Commission and by a majority vote of the Commission. These positions are elected each year for a one-year term and can be re-elected for an additional one-year term. An officer may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, along with the Executive Director, comprise the Executive Committee of the Commission. The Executive Committee sets the agenda for each meeting.

3.2 Officer Election Procedures

Any Commissioner interested in running for a Commission officer position shall notify the Executive Director or the Vice Chair sixty (60) days prior to officers' term limits. Notice of the slate of officers shall

be presented to the Commission at its January meeting. Nominations will also be open to the floor at the January meeting and will be closed by voice vote. The elections shall be conducted utilizing the open ballot procedure. Newly elected officers will assume their office at the February meeting.

Should a vacancy occur in the position of Chair or Vice Chair before the term is completed, the Commission shall solicit nominations for the vacant position within thirty (30) days following the meeting at which the vacancy occurs. The office shall be filled by a majority vote of Commissioners within sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs. The position shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term and until regularly scheduled elections are held.