



**Human Relations Commission**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Minutes**

TUESDAY, February 4th, 2025

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

Location: Council Chambers

202 C. Street, 12th Floor, SD, CA 92101

Commissioners: Rickie Brown, Sara Brown, Yessica Diaz-Roman, MH Fields, April Purcell, Tootie Thomas, Nicole Murray-Ramirez, John Sequeira

Staff Liaison Executive Director: Dr. Gerald Brown

Item 1: Call to Order: 6:05 p.m. Chair Tootie Thomas

Item 2: Commissioner Roll Call Chair Tootie Thomas

Quorum was met.

Item 3: Agenda and Non-agenda Public Comment Exec. Dir. G. Brown

No public present for comment.

Item 4: **\*\*Bayard Rustin Awards Ceremony\*\*** Chair Tootie Thomas

(Action Item: Requires Vote)

Discussion:

1. Is the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission partnering with the LGBT Taskforce to sponsor the Bayard Rustin Awards Ceremony annually?

Item #1 Motion was modified to read: 1. That the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission partner with the LGBT Taskforce to sponsor the Bayard Rustin Awards Ceremony to be held February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm in these Council Chambers; part 2 of the motion is to accept the slate of award nominees as listed.

Motioned by Commissioner Thomas/Second by Commissioner Diaz-Roman

A Roll Call Vote was conducted – Motion#1 was approved with no abstention.

Chair Thomas continued to layout the agenda for the award event on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.

It was so requested by Commissioner R. Brown that questions #2 and #3 be held over for discussion with the larger body of Commissioners for considerations. It was so moved and approved by the body.

2. If yes, going forward will this event be assigned to SDHRC Sub-Committee for Community Engagement. If no, why not?
3. What role/s and/or resources will the SDHRC be requested to provide to participate in this event?

Item 5: Discussion: Modeling the Professional Behavior as set forth by the City of San Diego, Code of Conduct, for Boards and Commissions.

Chair Tootie Thomas/Exec. Dir. G. Brown

Due to the time this item will be discuss at the upcoming HRC Retreat in March 2025.

#### A. CONDUCT GUIDELINES

From the City of San Diego Code of Conduct

These Conduct Guidelines shall apply to individuals appointed to a City board or commission under San Diego Charter sections 41, 41.2, and 43 (members). These Conduct Guidelines are designed to describe the manner in which appointed members should treat one another, elected officials, City staff, constituents, and others they come into contact with while representing the city.

##### 1. Members' Conduct with Each Other in Public Meetings

Members represent a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities, values, expertise, opinions, and goals. Despite this diversity, all have chosen to serve in public office to preserve and protect the present and the future of the community. In all cases, members should acknowledge this common goal even though individuals may not agree on every issue.

##### a. Honor the role of the chair in maintaining order

It is the responsibility of the chair to run the meeting and keep the comments of members on topic during public meetings. Members should honor efforts by the chair to focus discussion on current agenda items. If there is disagreement about the agenda or the chair's actions, those objections should be voiced politely and with

reason, following parliamentary procedure outlined in the applicable bylaws, if any, or Robert's Rules of Order.

b. Practice civility and decorum in discussions and debate

Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of debate by a free democracy in action. Free debate does not require nor justify public officials to make belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, or disparaging comments.

c. Avoid personal attacks or comments that could offend other members

If a member is personally offended by the remarks of another member, the offended member should make note of the actual words used and call for a "point of personal privilege" that challenges the other member to justify or apologize for the language used. The chair shall maintain control of this discussion.

d. Demonstrate effective problem-solving approaches

Members have a public stage and have the responsibility to show how individuals with disparate points of view can find common ground and seek a compromise that benefits the entire community.

Item 6: Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn 7:35 p.m.

Item 7: Next Meeting of the HRC February 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm.