



Human Relations Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

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

Commissioners: Elizabeth FitzSimons, Rickie Brown, Sara Brown, Yessica Diaz-Roman, Tyler Duncan, MH Fields, Julia Legaspi, April Purcell, Tootie Thomas, Daneyel Walker, Nicole Murray-Ramirez, John Sequeira.

Staff Liaison Executive Director: Dr. Gerald W. Brown

Item 1: Call to Order: Chair Tootie Thomas

Item 2: Commissioner Roll Call Exec. Dr. Gerald Brown

Excused Absent: Commissioner Purcell

Resigned Commissioners: MH Fields

Item 3: Minutes - Special Meeting Tuesday, February 4th, 2025, Chair Thomas

Minutes were accepted and approved.

Item 4: Agenda and Non-agenda Public Comment Exec. Dir. Brown

Completed.

Item 5: Commissioner Reports All Commissioners

Item 6: Bayard Rustin Awards Recap/Reflections Comm's R. Brown and N. Ramirez

Executive Director Brown notified the Commission that awardee, City of San Diego Fire Chief Robert Logan is unable to receive his award due to other pressing engagement that were previously scheduled for this month and the upcoming month of April. Likewise, awardee Professor T. J. Tallie, PhD., University of California, San Diego, was unable to attend this meeting.

*Item 7: Motions Chair Thomas and Commissioner N. Ramirez

“Stand With Us” Representatives: Staci Wax, Stephanie Nissan,

Alan Ziman and Helen Ziman gave a powerful presentation to the Commission. Upon completion of the presentation the Commission Voted to adopt the Definition of

“Antisemitism” adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

Motion made by Commissioner N. Murry-Ramirez and seconded by Commissioner R. Brown.

(1) Motion: Recommend to the Mayor and City Council to pass an ordinance to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, as adopted by the US Government in 2019 and since then has been adopted by 1,100 entities worldwide, 43 countries, 37 US States, and almost 100 US cities- and even adopted by the Global Imams Council.

For purposes of this chapter, "Antisemitism" shall have the same meaning as provided for in the Working Definition of Antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) on May 26, 2016, including the "contemporary examples of antisemitism," and shall be regarded as a prejudice based on real or perceived ancestry, religion, and national origin.

Discussion: During discussion on this item Commissioner S. Brown offer to write the letter requesting that the Mayor and City Council adopt the language of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism. Commissioners asked to see the letter before it was sent t City Officials

(2) Motion to Establish a Decision Documentation Process (This Motion was placed on hold).

Whereas transparency and accountability are fundamental to public trust, this motion directs the establishment of a formal process for direct discussions by the Human Relations Commission (HRC) Chairperson in clarifying issues and for codifying and documenting decisions made by overseeing bodies, including the Director of Boards and Commissions, the City Attorney’s Office, City Council, and the Mayor’s Office.

The process shall include:

1. Centralized Record-Keeping – All decisions, interpretations, and directives shall be documented in a publicly accessible database taking into account privacy issues as spelled out in the PRA.
2. Standardized Reporting – Each decision shall include the rationale, legal basis, and any relevant precedents.
3. Timely Updates – Records shall be updated promptly to ensure accuracy and accessibility.
4. Public Access – Information shall be available in a user-friendly format to ensure accessibility for all stakeholders in compliance with the PRA.

Item 8: Subcommittee Updates

Vice Chair Duncan

No Report.

Item 9: Election 2025

Exec. Dir. G. Brown

Each Commissioner was given (2) minutes to speak. The Vote for each position was performed by Roll Call.

Position

Chair

Nicole Murry Ramirez

Vice Chair

Rickie Brown

Secretary

Tootie Thomas

Item 10: Chair Report

Chair Tootie Thomas

Chair Thomas thanked the Commissioners for their continued support over her time as vice chair and chair of the Commission.

Item 11: Vice Chair Report No report

Vice Chair Tyler Duncan

Item 12: Executive Director Report No report

Exec. Dir. G. Brown

Item 13: Adjournment

Chair T. Thomas

Motion to Adjourn 7:38 pm