



Human Relations Commission Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

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

Location: Council Chambers

202 C. Street, 12th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

<https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1608286605>

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

Staff Liaison Executive Director:

Rev. Dr. Gerald W. Brown

Item 1: Call to Order: 6:08 PM

Chair Nicole Murray-Ramirez

Completed

Item 2: Commissioner Roll Call

Vice Chair Rickie Brown

Roll Call Completed

(a) Land Announcement.

Secretary Tootie Thomas

Land Announcement to Kumayaay Tribe - Completed

Item 3: Presentations

(a) Jewish Americans Heritage Month

Honorable Jordan Marks

San Diego County Tax Assessor Mr. Marks gave a heartfelt 5 minutes presentation regarding Jewish America contribution to the County and City of San Diego.

(b) Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Ms. JoAnn Fields

Ms. Field gave a genuine Power Point Presentation on AAPI, and their contribution to the San Diego Community. Ms. Fields also mentioned the late County and City Commissioner Julie Legaspi. Ms Field expressed how

loving Commissioner Legaspi was to her, and she stated that Julia was a mentor and leader to her, and, many in the Filipino and the LGBTQ+ Communities.

- (c) "Suicide Awareness Month." & Gun Violence Week Charles Walker, LMFT. Mr. Hector Meza –Mr. Walker was unable to attend. Mr. Meza of Jr's Trauma Care Initiative. He said, that his organization is a provides comprehensive trauma-informed care via mental health treatment, mentoring programs, peer crisis response teams, and community connection gatherings. Through these initiatives, they aim to create a safe and nurturing environment where individuals can share their experiences, receive guidance, and build meaningful connections.
- (d) Mana - Latinas in the San Diego Workforce: Moving Forward, Executive Director of Mana Dr. Gonzalez

Item 4: Bayard Rustin Award Recognition for SD Fire Chief Robert Logan

Fire Chief Logan was awarded the Bayard Rustin Award. Chief Logan expressed his sincere thank you to the Commission for their recognition. He spoke of the courage, dedication and strength of Bayard Rustin as a Civil Rights Leader and LGBTQ+ Advocate.

Chair Murray Ramirez

Item 5: Minutes – March 19,2025

Chair Murray-Ramirez

Roll call vote: Minutes approved.

Item 6: Agenda and Non-agenda Public Comment

Exec. Dir. GW Brown

Completed – No public comment.

Item 7: Mayoral/Office of Boards and Commission Rpt.

Dir. Chida Warren-Darby

Rescheduled.

Item 8: Action Item: The Commission voted to accept and adopt the working definition of Antisemitism as set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and, send a letter recommending to the Mayor and City Council encouraging them to adopt the working definition for the City of San Diego. Commissioner Sara Brown offered to write the letter.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous Vote.

Item 9: Chair Report – Moving Forward with Purpose – Overview of this Year!

Chair Murray-Ramirez offered an overview of what he would like the commission to accomplish over the remaining year.

1. He would like the Commission to be proactive in making recommendations to San Diego on issues that are important to citizens of San Diego, Mayor and City Council. As a part of that vision, he has appointed Dr. Sara Brown as our Legislative Analyst. Dr. Sara Brown will keep the Commission up-to-date of any new, and pending legislation that is inline the mission, purpose and focus of the Commission.
2. He would like 2 Commissioners from San Diego HRC to represent the Commission on the California Statewide Human Relations Association. Chair Ramirez said he would be one, and he asked Commissioner Yessica Diaz-Roman if she would be an alternate, she agreed, with the blessings of her fellow Commissioners.

Item 10: State Legislative Updates

Comm. Sara Brown

Assembly and Senate Bill Recommendations. (AB & SB)

Commissioner Sara Brown to collect and report on new legislation from our state Assembly and Senate that we as the HRC should be aware of, and/or support or oppose.

AB 449 (Jackson) – Combatting Hate in California* Creates and implements statewide and regional radio, social media, and television campaigns to discourage discrimination based upon, but not limited to, disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation – and, ensures the advertisements are proportional to the communities most impacted as reported under the AG’s annual hate crimes report.

AB 822 (Elhawary) – Commission on State of Hate* Extends the sunset repeal date of the existing Commission on State of Hate – which has undertaken significant work to analyze and address hate crimes and hate incidents in California.

AB 785 (Sharp-Collins) – would create the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program and fund community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools.

AB 413 (Fong) – Requires the Housing and Community Development Department to translate any services and guidelines into the top five languages other than English spoken in the homes of Californians.

SB 15 (Blakespear) – Requires more detailed records to be kept of guns for sale and greater scrutiny of gun dealers providing high numbers of firearms for criminal activity.

Nonprofit Security Grants. Newsom’s budget: \$76 million to 347 community groups and nonprofit organizations to protect them from hate-motivated violence.

Please stay tuned for more information about AB 715 (Zbur and Addis) – the language is being finalized but the bill intends to strengthen protections against discrimination, including antisemitism, in K–12 education, including protections against instruction and activity that promotes discrimination.

Item 11: Hate Crimes Reports - Participating Partners Chair Murry-Ramirez

San Diego County District Attorney – Summer Stephens – Abigail Dillion

Rescheduled to June 18, 2025, DA Stephens has confirmed

San Diego Regional Hate Crime Coalition – US Attorney – Alicia Williams

Unavailable.

City of San Diego – SDPD Hate Crimes Department – Chief Wahl

Unavailable

California Commission on the State of Hate – Brain Levin (Chair)

Not available traveling.

California Association Human Relations Organizations

Item 12: Chair Report Chair Murray-Ramirez

No report everything covered

Item 13: Vice Chair Report Comm. Rickie Brown

No report

Item 14: Executive Report ED GW. Brown

No report

Item 15: Commissioners Reports All Commissioners

No reports

Item 16: Adjournment Chair Nicole Murray-Ramirez

Motion to Adjourn 7:40 PM