



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

In-Person Meeting 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: City Administration Building -202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101, 12th Floor

Staff Liaison: Executive Director Gerald Brown

Item 1: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Item 2: Present: Rickie Brown, Sara Brown, Dr. Yessica Diaz Roman, Tyler Duncan, Tootie Thomas, Daneyel Walker, Dr. Steven Jones, Allie Ross, Edwin Lohr, Abdifatah Moalim
Absent: John Sequeira and Sabrina Bazzo

Item 3: Land acknowledgement.

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment
Ms. Francine Maxwell gave a public comment

Item 5: Meeting minutes tabled.

Item 6: The Commission honored the San Diego Veterans Day Parade, which was an award presentation that was tabled from November 2025.

Item 7: MLK-Chavez School Speaker – item was tabled.

Item 8: John Lewis Good Trouble Awards – item tabled.

Item 9: Bayard Rustin Awards: Chair Murray-Ramirez shared that the GLBTQ Task Force decided to withdraw their partnership with the Human Relations Commission on the awards event due to planning difficulties and micromanagement from the Office of Boards and Commissions staff. Commissioners entered into a robust conversation, sharing that they wanted this decision reconsidered because they

were not privy to any concerns that the Task Force and requested that the next steps be agendaized for the next meeting for further discussion.

Item 10: Somali Draft Plan Discussion: Chair

Item 11: “Know Your Rights” and Commission Designate:
Commissioners discussed a visit to a business within the Somali community in City Heights. Commissioner Abdifatah Moalim shared that the visit was extremely productive and appreciated by the business owners. The Commission voted to designate him as the designee to assist in coordinating meetings within the Somali community and with District 9 on behalf of the Commission. The vote passed 9-1

Item 12: Commission Retreat: Chair Murray Ramirez proposed forming a committee to begin planning the retreat. Three Commissioners offered to assist in surveying the Commissioners to determine the best time. Chair Murray Ramirez referenced a house available to the Commission for the retreat. Chair Roman Diaz referenced potential issues that could surface from hosting the retreat in someone’s home. Chair Murray Ramirez shared that the committee could discuss details and get back to the Commission.

Item 13: CHARO Report: Executive Director Gerald Brown reported on three of the major issues that surfaced during the convening:

1. CHARO is interested in convening a local gathering on the “State of Hate” to discuss hate in partnership with other HRCs.
2. Considering a convening on discrimination against the disabled.
3. CHARO requires dues to participate – he will provide details on the amounts.

Item 14: Chair Report:

1. Antisemitism Definition: Chair Murray Ramirez shared that Councilmember Whitburn will bring forward the Antisemitism definition on behalf of the Commission.
2. Juvenile Detention Center: Chair Murray Ramirez shared that it would be good for the Commission to tour the Juvenile Detention Center.
3. Council District Meeting Opportunities: Chair Murray Ramirez requested that a committee be formed to get recommendations on meeting outside of City Hall and bring updates back to the Commission by the next meeting.

Item 14: Executive Director’s Update:

1. Elections were held for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Nominations for Chair were Chair Nicole Murray Ramirez and Dr. Steven Jones. Dr. Jones won the election in a 6-5 vote. No names were submitted to run against the Vice Chair and Secretary incumbents, who were re-elected to serve another term.

2. Executive Director Brown gave an update on changes made to the Brown Act effective January 1, 2026, and the impacts it'll have on the Commission.
3. Executive Director Brown reported that he created a Commission calendar with notable days for Commission planning.

Item 15: Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Yessica Roman Diaz shared that she enjoyed attending the MLK Parade and participating with the NAACP.

Item 16: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

DRAFT