



Draft Minutes

WEDNESDAY, February 18th, 2026  
In-Person Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – 7: 30 p.m.  
Location: Council Chambers  
202 C. Street, 12th Floor, SD, CA 9210

**Chair: Dr. Steven Jones**

**Commissioners: Rickie Brown (Vice Chair), Sara Brown, Yessica Diaz Roman, Tyler Duncan, Tootie Thomas (Secretary), Danyel Walker, John Sequeira, Allie Ross, Nicole Murray-Ramirez, Edwin Lohr, Sabrina Bazzo, Abdifatah Moalim.**

**Staff Liaison: Rev. Dr. Gerald Brown**

**Item 1. Call to order - Chair Jones 6:31 p.m.**

Chair Jones welcomed commissioners and guests to the meeting.

**Item 2. Roll Call - Vice Chair Brown**

Quorum called. Excused absences include Commissioner Roman, Commissioner Sequeira and Commissioner Brown. Later Commissioner Murray-Ramirez left the meeting.

**Item 3. Land Acknowledgement - Secretary Thomas Kanap Kuahan Coalition:** Land Acknowledgement honoring the Kumeyaay people as the original inhabitants and caretakers of San Diego.

**Item 4. Approval of Minutes - Chair Jones**

Minutes approved with revisions to Item 11 and Item 14 on Secretary Thomas' vote (6-2 refer to recording for accurate number)

**Item 5. Public Comment:**

No public comment

**Item 6. Chair Report Chair Jones**

Chair Jones gave an overview of the four pillars (list the pillars) that are to guide the Commission. Acknowledged the Commissioners for the work that they're doing to advance the Commission, e.g., the retreat planning and the lifetime achievement award honorees.

- Black History Month Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation – Taskforce presented awards to honorees with presentations made to the following individuals:

1. Supervisor **Monica Montgomery Steppe**

2. Library Branch Manager: **Allan Bugg**, Branch Manager, Valencia Park/Malcolm X Library

3. Professor/Author: **Starla Lewis**

4. Professor/Historian: **Chuck Ambers**

5. RISE San Diego Community Leadership Development/ Poet: **Leah Goodwin**

**Action Items:**

Secretary Thomas proposed a motion to combine the items up for unanimous consent:

Motion: Sabrina Bazzo

Second: Allie Ross

Motion to pass slate of motions: Edwin Lohr, Second: Allie Ross

1. Motion to Adopt of HRC Bylaws: Comm. Duncan - Any changes to the bylaws?
2. Motion to cancel March 18th retreat in lieu of March 18th HRC Meeting
3. Motion to approve Strategic Planning Retreat Goals & Objectives
4. HRC Engaging the San Diego Community April 15th - In the Community

May 20th - City Council Chambers

June 17th - In the Community

July 15th - City Council Chambers

August 19th - In the Community

September 16th – City Council Chambers

October 21st - In the Community

November 18th – Council Chambers

December 16th - In the Community

5. Monthly **“Coffee @ (after) 5 with the HRC”** – 3-4 Commissioners (including Chair) will hold a Community Engagement/Listening Session in a different District each month: to be held on 1st Thursday of every month from 6:00-7:00p.m. – beginning in March March 5th – The Mental Bar – District 4

April 2nd – location tbd

May 7th – location tbd

June 4th - – location tbd

July 2nd – location tbd

August 6th – location tbd

September 3rd – location tbd

October 1st – location tbd

November 5th – location tbd

December 3rd – location tbd

Passes unanimously: 9 – 0

Chair Jones requested a Task Force Volunteers for the Monthly Coffee after 5 and Community Listening Sessions.

*Coffee Shops: Walker, Lohr, Bazzo*

*Community Meetings: (33:00 mark to see who volunteered)*

**Item 7. Information Items Chair Jones**

1. Supervisor **Monica Montgomery Steppe**
2. Library Branch Manager: **Allan Bugg**, Branch Manager, Valencia Park/Malcolm X Library
3. Professor/Author: **Starla Lewis**
4. Professor/Historian: **Chuck Ambers**
5. RISE San Diego Community Leadership Development/ Poet: **Leah Goodwin**

#### **Item 8. Action Items**

- Approve HRC Strategic Planning Retreat to be held on Mar. 14th from 9:00-1:30p.m. at San Diego Downtown Library
- Motion to begin holding 2026 HRC Meetings in the following locations beginning in April:

#### **Item 9. General Business Items and Committee Reports**

Commissioner Abdifatah reported that they met with NGOs in the Somali community, walked around and had 1:1s with individuals within the community, taking actions to learn what they want. The community needed representation: they shared their problems and concerns regarding their needs. Expressed that having the Chair was significant.

Commissioner Lohr reported that it was an honor and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with Commissioner Moalim. Timing was well planned for Commissioner Moalim

Secretary Thomas gave comments (37:00 mark)

Chair Jones expressed that the experience could serve as a template for the Commission to engage and make recommendations.

**Item 10. CHARO Report- Commissioner Rickie Brown:** Refer to recording

#### **Item 11. Executive Director Report**

- Director Warren gave an update on badges
- ED Brown provided updates on the retreat, announcing that the mayor will attend.
- Parking validation will be covered.

#### **Item 12. Commissioner Comments/Announcements**

- Commissioner Moalim shared an overview of Ramadan and why it's important, inviting individuals to join in.
- Commissioner Bazzo shared that she'll be in Washington DC advocating for SDUSD and will miss the retreat.
- Commissioner Lohr is invited people to a Love Fest in City Heights, 2/21 11am – 10pm

- Commissioner Duncan announced San Diego Against Hate week and is encouraging participation from the Commission.

**Non Agenda Public Comment:**

Yusef Miller – gave remarks in honor of Black History Month and a historical overview of State of California’s anti-Black legislation and connections to slavery.

Commissioner Thomas thanked Yusef Miller for his engagement with the Commission and his advocacy.

**Item 13. Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

**Item 14. Adjournment Chair Jones – 7:40 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn: Danyel Walker, and Second Rickie Brown