



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

In-Person Meeting, 5:30 p.m. – 7: 00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers | 202 C. Street, 12th Floor, SD, CA 92101

Chair: Tootie Thomas | Vice Chair: Tyler Duncan | Secretary: Ryan Trabuco

Commissioners: Rickie Brown Daneyel Walker, MH Fields, Nicole Ramirez. Sara Brown, Yessica Diaz Roman

Excused Absences: Commissioner Olympia Beltran, Commissioner Julie Legaspi, Commissioner April Purcell

Executive Director: Gerald Brown

Item 1: Call to Order: (Chair Thomas)

Item 2: Action: Roll Call (Chair Duncan) Quorum was established.

Item 3: Action: Motion to Approve/Disapprove Minutes from February 2024 HRC Meeting – Motion made to Approved Minutes by Commissioner Faye Detsky-Weil – Roll call vote – Minutes Approved – (03) Abstention.

Item 4: Action: Motion to change the Start time of the Human Relations Commission Meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6: p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Detsky-Weil, Seconded by Commissioner Trabuco -Roll Call Vote - All Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion Approved. Chair Thomas stated that we would start counting absences going forward. We realized that the start time was a challenge for Commissioners. He also mentioned that Commissioners are allowed to have two (2) excused absences doing the course of a year. If, there he is a third absence, we would have a conversation in keeping with the HRC Bylaws.

Item 5: Public Comments: Agenda/Non-Agenda Comments – Executive Director Brown read off the procedure for Public participation in the HRC Meeting. There was no Public Comments on Agenda/Non Agenda.

Item 6: Standing Committee Discrimination and Equal Protection Report – Vice Chair Duncan - Executive Director Brown

Executive Director Brown explained that this Commissions main focus as set forth in the Municipal Code is to respond to citizens that are seeking release from Discrimination and Equal Protection violations through filing complaints with the City Human Relations Commission.

Vice Chair Duncan stated that we have moved Discrimination and Equals Protection Subcommittee to a Standing Committee based on our Bylaws. He proceeded to read Article 1, of the HRC Commission's Bylaws. He also stated that we had our first meeting on March 18th, 2024 and we discussed the new complaint process- and how the complaint process will work. The complaints will be received via e-mail, via phone or through inputting a complaint on the HRC websites. Those complaints will be directed to our executive director, and then funneled down to that standing committee. The Standing Committee will then have an opportunity to discuss and review those complaints. The committee talked about the critical nature after the feedback that we received from the mayor's office. We also talked about the sensitivity of some the topics that may be discussed. We discussed a couple of different methods of how we would funnel those complaints. The committee also discussed complaints that were in our purview and complaints that were not necessarily within our city, and potentially what resources, or ways, we could receive those complaints and have a collaborative document so that we're able to offer our feedback or different resources.

Item 6 Cont. Commissioners expressed concerns regarding security, confidentiality and possible retaliation. The executive director explained that per the municipal code all complaints and complainants will interact with him alone. Chair Thomas expressed the need to ensure that the citizens of San Diego know that the complaint process exists. So that no one felt that their voice did not exist.

Item 7: Legislative Update Exe. Dir. Gerald Brown

- AB 817- Open Meetings: Teleconferencing: Non-Decision-Making Bodies

Passed a copy out of AB 817 to each commissioner and encouraged them to read Assembly Bill. In summary AB 817 would provide a narrow exemption under the Ralph M. Brown Act for non-decision- making legislative bodies currently governed by Act, such as advisory bodies and commissions, to participate in two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting physical location of members, aligning equal access to civic participation with State advisory bodies. AB 817 would remove barriers to entry for appointed and elected office by allowing non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate virtually as long as, they do not have the ability to take final action on legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or other entitlements.

- Complaint Process – Vice Duncan and Executive Director Brown covered earlier.

Item 8: Subcommittee Reports – Vice Chair Duncan

San Diego United Against Hate Subcommittee met on March 19, 2024. Vice Chair gave the commission an overview of the subcommittee's meeting. He started with a historical context of how United Against Hate Week started, it originated in the Bay Area in California around 2017 in response to White Supremist rallies and other actions that were taking place/ It started with a poster letting individuals know from those radical groups that they were Standing United Against Hate (UAH). Since 2017 UAH it has made its way down through Southern California, picking up momentum in Los Angeles and coming to San Diego in 2022. We then discussed what does hate look like or feel like for some of the commissioners, and we then moved into talking about what we've done in the past. We were unable to participate on the level that we previously did in 2022 for 2023. However, in 2022 we did actually author and move forward with the proclamation for San Diego United Against Hate, and, with the support of our County District Attorney, as well as Mayor Todd Gloria; we held a press conference in regard to that proclamation, and we reiterating our response that San Diego Stands United Against Hate. We also called for action by sending out different implementations regarding events for that week that were held in Diego by the US Attorney's Office as well as, the San Diego Anti-hate Coalition. some of those collaborators and events consisted of a variety of educational events, social media campaigns, regarding standing united against hate education.

Commissioner Ramirez made a subjection that the HRC received a monthly updated from the District Attorney regarding Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents by race, religion and other factors that may be a part of the report. Commissioner Field offer to ask for the report from the DA.

Chair Thomas also recommended that we also include our Business Districts in this reporting process for information and partnering resources.

Community Engagement Subcommittee- Vice Chair Duncan

This meeting took place on March 15th, 2024. The subcommittee established a standing meeting date as the 2nd Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. In this initial subcommittee meeting we talked about the purpose awards and recognition. We also discussed some of the awards recognition and events that we've participated in in the past, notably, our HRC Award Ceremony and the importance of continuing to push that event forward. We discussed this being really one of the 1st events that we will put infrastructure behind to establishing a potential date, as well as, a location. We want to ensure that we have all of the information that a previous chair Rizzo and previous vice chair Conzalez were able to timestamp for us. We have a lot of documentation regarding potential Flyers, agendas, and we have a program that's already up and running, we just need some updates. We are compiling all of that information and providing those resources out to the Commission. The subcommittee wants to see what is working within our framework and then how to update and move forward. In that regards, we also discussed the awards and recognition in general, and that all awards and recognition should be funneled through this subcommittee. as its purpose is just that to engage in the community and to hold on to hold awards and recognition so we do want to discuss with the Commission and understanding and hope in general conversation as far as moving forward any awards and recommendations as far as events proposing those to the subcommittee and then being having the subcommittee being able to work collaboratively to bring those events and recognitions to life and so we willing to go ahead and open some discussion momentarily. We also discussed what community partnership would look like and we would like to develop a catalog or address book of the different community contacts that we could outreach to.

The Commissioners discuss honoring Unsung Hero – how they will be honored. Commissioner Nicole Ramirez recommended the that HRC would host an Award Ceremony each month honoring the Unsung Hero. That hero would be tide to some awareness for that month.

Item 9: Executive Director Report: Action item: Election for Secretary, City of San Diego Human Relations Commission

- a. Commissioner Faye Detsky-Weil Motioned that Commissioner Ryan Trabuco be elected to Secretary for the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission, that motion was seconded by Commissioner Rickie Brown. Chair Thomas called for the Vote: the vote was unanimous.
- b. Appointments/Resignations: The ED covered the need to ensure that once the commissioners are contacted by the City Clerk regarding their re/appointment they need to respond in a timely manner. The ED also covered resignation. He stated that they are required to submit a letter of resignation upon resigning from the Commission, transferring to another Commission, or Board within the City of San Diego.
- c. Brown Act/Robert Rules of Order: The ED shared that in October, Governor Newsom signed Amendments to the Brown Act into law. The Amendments include an extension of the provisions that allow board and commission members to appear for meetings virtually for either "just cause" or "emergency circumstances" reasons to Jan. 1, 2026. These provisions were originally set to expire in 2024. Additionally, the Amendments added as a "just cause" reason for a member to appear virtually if that member has an immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them participate remotely. Please remember that a quorum of members must still met in person to hold a meeting.
- d. Code of Conduct – Update – Presently, it is going through the Rules Committee for the City of San Diego, and we don't have a date or time that it will be finished.

Item 10: Chair and Executive Committee Report (Chair Thomas)



The Chair thanked everyone for their participation in the Bayard Rustin's Award. Communication was a key factor to the awards success as well as provide some challenges. Going forward all awards ceremonies will worked though the Awards Subcommittee.

Item 11: Vice-Chair Report (Vice Chair Tyler Duncan

Item 11 cont. Vice Chair Duncan thanked the subcommittees members reaching their goals of developing the subcommittees is to be able to really make digestible solutions, and tangible solutions for advancing the Commission's mission of promoting activities that foster understanding respect and inclusion amongst all San Diegan, while protecting basic human and civil rights. He acknowledged Commissioner Fields for hosting an amazing event regarding the Innocence Project on exonerate at Point Loma Nazarene University. He said, it was very well received and really appreciated him being able to provide that information as well as collaborating with a variety of speakers. Especially regarding the injustice and the wrongful incarceration that is taking place really across America.

He also spoke about collaboration with San Diego Anti-hate Coalition. He highlighted that the coalition in the US Attorney's Office does have an event coming up on April 4th in San Marcos regarding protecting houses of worship.

Secretary Trabuco – thanked Vice Chair Duncan for all the work that he did on the subcommittee. He also congratulated Commissioner Rickie Brown, her name was on the ballot for the County Democratic Committee and she was the top vote getter in the 79th Assembly District. He also stated that over the past weekend Commissioner Ramirez and him attended to a celebration of life for Jerry Delano, who was a longtime pioneer in the LGBTQ community. She was the first pride parade organizer here in San Diego, she was the first example to all. He ask that the meeting be adjourned in her honor.

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting in her honor.