



Human Relations Commission

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, December 18th, 2024

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

Location: Council Chambers

202 C. Street, 12th Floor, SD, CA 92101

Commissioners: Olympia Beltran, Rickie Brown, Sara Brown, Faye Detsky-Weil, Yessica Diaz-Roman, Tyler Duncan, MH Fields, Julia Legaspi, April Purcell, Tootie Thomas, Ryan Trabuco, Daneyel Walker, Nicole Murray-Ramirez.

Staff Liaison Executive Director: Dr. Gerald Brown

Item 1: Call to Order:

Chair Tootie Thomas

Item 2: Commissioner Roll Call

Vice Chair Tyler Duncan

Item 3: Minutes

- Roll call vote - Minutes were approved

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

There was no public comment on Agenda items or non-Agenda items.

Item 5: Commissioner Reports

All Commissioners

Commissioner Dr. Sara Brown invited her fellow Commissioners to attend community symposium, Standing Together: A Community Response to Antisemitism. The Symposium will be held on Sunday, February 2nd, at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel, from 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Commissioner Brown said that she heard her colleagues regarding not being able to attend because they had church service on Sunday, so they structured the time so hopefully can attend event. She also said that they would cover the registration cost. If there is a problem please contact her.

Item 6: Summary of 2024 events

Chair Thomas and ED Brown

Chair Thomas summarized a list of accomplishments that the HRC did doing 2024 in spite of the some of the challenges that arose in 2024. Here are a few:

In 2024, the Human Relations Commission proudly participated in and supported numerous impactful events and initiatives that celebrated community, advocated for equity, and strengthened our connections across San Diego:

- MLK Jr. Parade Participation
- Bayard Rustin Honors
- Commissioner Rickie Brown's Essie Mae Horn Extraordinary Ordinary San Diegans Presentation at The Mental Bar, recognizing Sarah Buchanan as an exceptional San Diegan.
- Attendance at the MLK 36th Annual All Peoples Celebration as a guest of Danell Scarborough.
- Featured speaker and activist Karrie Gonzales discussed Fentanyl Addiction.
- Attendance at the Harvey Milk Breakfast chaired by Chair Emeritus Nicole Murray-Ramirez and Commissioner Rickie Brown.
- Advanced Discrimination and Equal Protection Documentation, led by Executive Director Brown, resolving cases and reinforcing the Commission's commitment to fairness and care.
- Participation in the Safety Summit Report with top law enforcement, exploring SAR Reports and proposing a future Law Enforcement Neighborhood Mixer.
Represented the HRC at Pride with Trans Fronteras with a booth and giveaways.
- Supported flooding victims through food vouchers with Chair Emeritus Nicole Murray-Ramirez and housing assistance, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office.
- Commissioner Diaz Roman introduced Maria Garcia and presented a Proclamation.
- Joined efforts with San Diego United Against Hate, collaborating with AAPI and the NAACP, CARE, the District Attorney's Office, and ASM Ward issued a Certificate of Appreciation.
- Celebrated Filipino Heritage Month, honoring Joann Fields, and Vice Chair Duncan and Executive Director Gerald Brown attended Lumpia Lunch
- Commissioner Nicole Murray-Ramirez honored RUTH ("Remember Us The Holocaust") founder Sandra Scheller and the HRC issued a Letter of Support for a Permanent Holocaust Museum.
- Hosted the City of San Diego Title VI Program, led by Christiana Gauger, Chief Compliance Officer.

These events highlight the Commission's dedication to fostering inclusivity, celebrating diversity, and addressing the needs of all San Diegans.

Item 7: Black History Month and Bayard Rustin Awards Discussion

Commissioner Rickie Brown, Commissioner Nicole Ramirez and Chair Thomas will lead the way in this year's event.

Commissioner R. Brown asked, if anyone know of someone that is deserving of being recognized for the work that they are doing. Please submit their name, and a short biography. Time is quickly upon use.

Motions – Roll call vote

1. To establish an Ad hoc Committee for planning and implementation of a Black History Month Celebration and Awards presentation with Commissioner Rickie Brown as Chair -Motion failed – Vice Chair Duncan pointed out that there always a committee that is setup to do the work.
2. To reestablish an Ad hoc Committee for planning and implementation of Bayard Rustin Celebration and Awards with Commissioner Nicole Murray-Ramirez as Chair – Bayard Rustin Awards is not a Commission event. While the HRC was honored to be a part of, and in collaboration with the GLBTQ Historic Task Force. The Bayard Rustin Award are under the GLBTQ.

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Item 8: Discussion on 2025 Initiatives and Challenges

Chair Thomas

Chair Thomas asked the question: How do we rise to meet the moment?

1. Immigrant and Refugee Rights
2. Civil Rights

Because of time restrictions the commission was not able to discuss thoroughly.

Item 9: Subcommittee Reports

Vice Chair Duncan

Vice Chair Duncan said that the Sub Committee had not met because of the holidays. However, they were looking to start scheduling meetings in the New Year.

Item 10: Executive Director Report

Exec. Dir. Brown

Executive Director Brown covered the upcoming election for January 2025. He asked if anyone is considering running for office, to please let him know. He also briefly mentioned that the Commission must planned for Commission Retreat 2025)

Item 11: Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn