



# Commission on the Status of Women

## Meeting Minutes

**Friday, March 13, 2026**

Location: Serra-Mesa/Keary Mesa Branch Library  
Sudbury Room  
9005 Aero Dr,  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Chair:** Gail Friedt

**Commissioners/Board Members/Committee Members:** Wendy Urushima-Conn, Lakeya Cherry, Marlyn Carrillo, Natasha Wong, Sophie Tarazi, Susan Davis, Sorayda Santos, Carla Nesbitt-Stokes, Brandee Joyner

**Staff Liaison:** Michaela Valk

**Item 1: The meeting was called to order by Chair Friedt @ 12:05 PM**

**Item 2: Roll Call**

- **Present: Friedt, Cherry, Davis, Wong, Joyner, Carrillo**
- **Absent: Urushima-Conn, Santos, Tarazi, Nesbitt-Stokes**

**Item 3: Approval of Agenda**

- **A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.**
- **Outcome: The agenda was approved unanimously.**

**Item 4: Approval of January 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

- **A motion to approve the January 3, 2026 minutes was made and seconded.**
- **Outcome: The minutes were approved unanimously.**

**Item 5: Information:**

**Item 5.1: Review of Commissioner activities since last meeting**

- **Commissioner Carrillo joined Balboa Forever as a board member, aiming to share information and collaborate.**

- **Commissioner Cherry shared both community service and volunteer opportunities (e.g., Boys to Men Gala, financial literacy workshops in elementary schools).**
- **Chair Friedt encouraged commissioners to continue sharing opportunities.**
- **Commissioner Wong received a Woman of Inspiration award from the La Jolla Town Council. The ceremony was held at the La Jolla Women’s Club. She learned about the club’s work supporting single mothers and broader community outreach.**
- **Commissioners Cherry and Chair Friedt shared that the San Diego Womens Foundation advanced 8 organizations focused on childcare. Site visits are the next step. Commissioners expressed interest in site visits and ongoing involvement.**
- **Commissioner Cherry has joined the Downtown Kiwanis Club.**
- **Chair Friedt provided an update on the Commission on the Status of Women & Girls (CSWG) meeting she attended, which included on guest speaker on Black Maternal Health including Father’s First Program. CSWG is working on CEDAW baseline analysis report and department specific action plans and is being assisted by the County’s Office of Equity and Racial Justice (OERJ)**

Item 5.2: Review of upcoming Commissioner activities

- **City of San Diego Youth Summit: June 3rd at Balboa Park War Memorial Building—potential for commission presence.**
- **Rachel’s Women’s Shelter Expansion: June 10th event for the opening of what may be the largest women’s shelter in the U.S.; commissioners encouraged to attend and bring resources.**
- **Commissioner Wong shared an invitation to the Chinese School of San Diego 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 9, 2026.**
- **Commissioner Carrillo will be attending Women in Water Conference to learn about women’s roles and needs in the water industry, including labor, access and conservation.**

Item 6: Interest in Commissioners attendance at 1 City Council meeting in 2026

- **Commissioners voted to attend city council meetings and town halls, especially those related to budget discussions in the future (not mandatory). Commissioners were encouraged to try and attend at least 1 meeting/town hall and to reach out to their current council member if not already done. Commissioners can sign up for newsletters from their respective Councilmember.**
- **The City’s budget survey is open through May 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners are encouraged to complete the survey and share the link. [City of SD Budget Survey](#)**

Item 7: Action Items(s)

Financial Literacy Workshop

- **Decision to move forward with organizing a financial literacy event targeted at women and families.**
- **US Bank identified as a promising partner for hosting and providing resources; other banks and organizations also considered.**
- **Event to include expert panelists and educational material distribution.**
- **Locations discussed: Southeast Livewell Center, Jacobs Center, UCSD Park & Market, with a focus on accessibility and serving diverse communities.**
- **Commissioners to finalize partners, date, and location by next meeting.**

City of San Diego Childcare Organizations

- **Child First Collective identified as a key potential partner; motion was made and passed unanimously to attend their monthly meetings and explore partnership opportunities.**
- **Commissioners to sign up for meeting attendance and report back.**

City of San Diego Eldercare Organizations

- **ElderHelp and Serving Seniors identified for potential volunteer day of service; Commissioner Cherry will reach out to both organizations and report back.**
- **Commissioners discussed volunteering with both organizations.**

Item 8: Consider inclusion of employment access and workforce opportunities as part of Pay Equity & Wealth Building focus

- **Commissioner Joyner presented on the disproportionate layoffs of women of color.**
- **Discussion highlighted the recent surge in layoffs, particularly affecting Black women in San Diego and nationally (numbers doubling from 300,000 to 600,000).**
- **Commissioners shared personal experiences and strategies (e.g., networking, LinkedIn referrals).**
- **Suggestions included partnering with chambers of commerce (Black, Hispanic, Asian), advocating for more inclusive networking events, and leveraging media to raise awareness.**
- **Plan to revisit and develop concrete strategies at the next meeting.**

Item 9: Events & Programming Subcommittee Update

- **Financial Literacy Workshop - as noted above**

Item 10: Policy & Advocacy Subcommittee Update

- **No update**

Item 11: Community Outreach Subcommittee Report

- **Committee to coordinate on event planning and outreach efforts.**
- **Commissioner Davis discussed the meeting she had with a member of Senator Jacobs staff, who expressed interest in holding a convening, with the commission's help, on the challenges of childcare in the military community. Due to time constraints, the discussion was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting.**

Item 12: Board Member/Commissioner Discussion

- **Commissioners reminded that participation can extend beyond this physical meetings (e.g., via text, email, or volunteering). Please wear your Commission nametag if appropriate.**

Item 13: Non-Agenda Public Comment

- **A guest attendee (Ernesto) shared appreciation for the commission's work and insights for his own nonprofit focused on youth, art, and mental health.**

**Adjournment @ 1:16 PM**

