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# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

## ***SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION***

### ***Draft Meeting Minutes***

***May 12, 2022, 5:00 PM***

#### **ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS**

Karen Clopton, Chairperson  
Joseph Sweiss, Vice-Chairperson  
Vanessa R. Aquino, Commissioner  
Hala Hijazi, Commissioner  
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner  
Jason Pellegrini, Commissioner  
Leah Pimentel, Commissioner  
Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner  
Ann Champion Shaw, Commissioner  
Michael Sweet, Commissioner

Sheryl Evans Davis, EdD  
Executive Director

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For more information, contact the Commission Secretary at 415-252-2500  
Agenda and other information are available on the HRC website: [www.sfgov.org/sfhumanrights](http://www.sfgov.org/sfhumanrights)

**Meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.**

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement – Chair Karen Clopton

**1. 2:45 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Present:** Vanessa R. Aquino, Ann Champion Shaw, Karen Clopton, Hala Hijazi, Mark Kelleher, Jason Pellegrini, Leah Pimentel, Michael Sweet,

**Absent:** Irene Yee Riley, Joseph Sweiss

Meeting was called to order with 8 Commissioners present and new Commissioner Leah Pimentel who was sworn in on May 10, 2022.

**2. 4:20 FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) (Action Item)**

The Commission will discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution setting forth findings necessary to authorize the Commission to hold meetings remotely under the modified Brown Act provisions in Assembly Bill 361.

**Presentation:** Cathy Mulkey Meyer, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**Public Comment**

Motion to allow teleconferenced meetings under California government code section 54953(e). 1<sup>st</sup> Commissioner Michael Sweet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Jason Pellegrini.

**Motion carried by acclimation:** Vanessa R. Aquino, Ann Champion Shaw, Karen Clopton, Hala Hijazi, Mark Kelleher, Jason Pellegrini, Leah Pimentel, Michael Sweet,

**Absent:** Irene Yee Riley, Joseph Sweiss

**3. 6:39 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Discussion Item)**

Members of the public may address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

**Ace Washington** - Mr. Washington commented as a and life-long advocate for issues impacting the Fillmore District. He has been a corridor ambassador, employed in the parking garage on Fillmore, and 15 years ago as a member of the Western Addition PAC (WAPAC) 15 years ago, one of the oldest organization in the Western Addition. Also was s around when the Redevelopment Agency was sued. Ace worked with Mayor Ed Lee when he was serving on the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Washington remembers when the HRC work primarily focused on truckers, affirmative action, immigration. He is tickled that

work has expanded to support Juneteenth and one of the meeting topics focuses on the Juneteenth celebrations.

**4. 10:27 ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 12, 2022 MEETING MINUTES (Action Item)**

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission's April 12, 2022 special meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**COMMISSION COMMENT**

There was no commissioner comment on this item.

Motion to accept the April 12, 2022 minutes as submitted. 1<sup>st</sup> Commissioner Jason Pellegrini, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rev. Ann Champion Shaw

**Motion carried by acclamation:** Vanessa R. Aquino, Ann Champion Shaw, Karen Clopton, Hala Hijazi, Mark Kelleher, Jason Pellegrini, Leah Pimentel, Michael Sweet,

**Absent:** Irene Yee Riley, Joseph Sweiss

**6. 12:16 2022 JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY UPDATES (Discussion Item)**

This is an update on events scheduled throughout San Francisco honoring Juneteenth, the national holiday recognizing the end of chattel slavery in the United States, newly codified as of June 19, 2021. Participants in the San Francisco Human Rights Commission Dream Keeper Initiative and African American Reparations Advisory Committee members, and others from community will be available to present.

Presentations:

- African American Art and Culture Complex
- Bayview Opera House
- City and County of San Francisco 2022 Juneteenth Kick Off, Phelicia Jones
- Fillmore Collaborative
- Invest Black Lakeview OMI
- NAACP, Reverend Dr. Amos Brown
- SF Black Wall Street
- TAJA's Coalition Divinity Ball

Public Comment

Director Davis introduced community members working on a wide variety of events celebrating the Federal Juneteenth Holiday. This is a list of events presented:

June 4, 1pm - 5pm	<b>Point Pushas Artist Expo</b>	Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theater
June 4, 11am-6pm	<b>Family Day activities, amusement park and car parade</b>	Dr. Ruth Jackson Family Day in Sunnydale
June 10, 12pm - 2pm	<b>Juneteenth Events Kick off</b>	San Francisco City Hall
June 10, 3pm - 8pm	<b>SF Pride Black Liberation</b>	AAACC
June 10, 6pm - 8pm	<b>Juneteenth Gallery Reception featuring Black Artists of the Shipyard</b>	Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theater
June 11, 11am – 4pm	<b>Juneteenth on Ocean Avenue – Lakeview OMI</b>	Invest Black, OMI Cultural Participation Project, OMICC
June 11, 12pm - 4pm	<b>Ferguson Rising Film Screening</b>	Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theater
June 17, 11am - 4pm	<b>SFBFF</b>	AAACC
June 17, 5pm - 8pm	<b>Mel Simmons Memorial Service</b>	AAACC
June 18, noon - 5pm	<b>Fillmore Juneteenth</b>	Fillmore Street
Juneteenth (June 19) 6pm - 9:30pm	<b>20th Anniversary Screening: Straight Outta Hunters Point</b>	Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theater
June 16 thru 18, 8pm 10pm	<b>World Premiere: The Joy Protocol featuring Dawson Dance SF and Richard Howell</b>	Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theater
Juneteenth (June 19) 11am-5pm	<b>Bayview Juneteenth</b>	SFBWS Juneteenth Bayview at Gilman Park

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ace Washington: Mr. Washington thanked the Human Rights Commission for helping coordinating Juneteenth planning with community members. Mr. Washington would like to present on Juneteenth's history in San Francisco at some point in time, it has been

celebrated at City Hall previously and Mr. Washington is pleased the Fillmore Collaborative, SF Black Wallstreet, Reverend Brown working together and would like to be invited to in person collaborations.

Virginia Marshall: Ms. Marshall praised the work of community leaders, remarking that the San Francisco Events could be the largest in the country. Historically, educator Louis Geary was Chaired Juneteenth, supporting kick-off events at City Hall. Ms. Marshall thanked the organizers for organizing events from the Bayview, to the Fillmore, to the Port, creating activities for all ages to participate.

Rodney Jackson: Written testimony. "So happy to lend energy to this important and timely event. Director of SF BATCO."

Thomas Simpson of the Afro Solo Theatre Company thanked organizers and people providing public testimony. Mr. Simpson is excited to see community working together and looking forward to supporting the phenomenal Juneteenth events in any way possible.

Tanya Williams: In 2021 Juneteenth was being celebrated locally as the Federal Congress voted to recognize Juneteenth as an official Federal holiday. Ms. Williams is extremely encouraged and proud that the community is creating a month of events, not only celebrating on one day. She thanks Director Davis for her leadership.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Commissioner Hijazi thanked community members, leaders and activists for putting together the Juneteenth events with the assistance of Director Davis and HRC Staff. She asked for a list of events and the information about the Mayoral Kick Off to share out to community and pointed out that one of the slides incorrectly listed June 10<sup>th</sup> as a Monday, when it is a Friday.

Commissioner Aquino thanked Director Davis, Phelicia Jones, and all community members organizing Juneteenth events and the larger celebrations.

Commissioner Shaw expressed her support and excitement about the Juneteenth celebrations to Director Davis, Phelicia Jones, all of the organizers. Other cities are only celebrating for a weekend and it is very special that San Francisco is organizing an entire month of events, and a specific week honoring Juneteenth. Asked that we share out information of how to register for Juneteenth events on different websites.

**6. 43:51 REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS UPDATES (Discussion Item)**

Activities the Human Rights Commission is supporting related to the upcoming decision regarding United States Supreme Court File Number 19-1392, Thomas E. Dobbs, State Health Offices of the Mississippi Department of Health, Et. Al. v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, Et. Al.

**Presentation: Sophia Andary**, Co-Founder and Advisor, Women’s March of San Francisco. Kellylou Densmore, **Director, Office of Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention**  
**Public Comment**

Department on the Status of Women Commissioner Andary presented information about the upcoming March for Reproductive Justice, scheduled May 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Andary made it clear that the organizers of the Women’s march and the Department on the Status of Women are collaborating locally and nationally on ongoing actions to support birthing people in states that will be most impacted by the Supreme Court’s decisions.

KellyLou Densmore, Director of SHARP discussed her Division’s role as a Co-sponsor of the march. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission is also a cosponsor of the march. Director Densmore talked about the SFUSD High School Rally scheduled on May 13, 2022 at City Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

**Commissioner Pimentel** asked how many High Schools and students were attending Friday’s event.

**7. 57:43 REVIEW THE ACCEPT AND EXPEND RESOLUTION FOR THE CALIFORNIANS FOR ALL YOUTH JOB CORP PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL (Discussion Item)**

The Human Rights Commissioners will review and possibly vote to endorse a proposed resolution for the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Human Rights Commission to accept and expend a grant from the State of California to support and expand youth programming under the Opportunities for All initiative.

**Presentation: Dr. Sheryl Davis**, Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Dannielle Glover, **Workforce Alignment and Equity, Opportunities for All, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**

**Public Comment**

Sara Williams presented information about the Summer 2022 Opportunities for All youth workforce program, 2700 young people had registered for summer internships. The resolution accepting the grant would need to be approved in several committees, then finalized through the Board of Supervisors. HRC Staff will keep the Commission apprised of the legislation's status.

Director Davis thanked Commissioner Sweet and Chair Clopton for their participation in the program and encouraged Commissioners to become involved.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

**Commissioner Hijazi** thanked Dannielle Glover, Sara Williams and Director Davis for their work on OFA. This is one of the most consequential, impactful programs. Commissioner Hijazi attended the first kick off event and noted how young people involved felt welcomed and seen and heard. Programs like these are why service on the Human Rights Commission is so important. Asked if the applications are open on a rolling basis and would like periodic updates on the OFA program, along with links to share to diverse communities so even more youth can participate.

**Commissioner Sweet** commended Director Davis for her leadership, moving HRC through a tremendous transition following the contract monitoring division moving out of HRC's purview. Director Davis envisioned where the commission would move next, moved from Commissioner to Executive Director and has grown the department into what it is today. The positive impact HRC programs have supporting the youth of San Francisco in this program and others through the HRC is indisputable. Thanked Dr. Davis for her leadership ensuring the HRC remain relevant today, grounded in the original mission to advocate for human rights and equity.

**Commissioner Pimentel** thanked Dr. Davis and Sara Williams for their work, increasing the applicant base year after year. These types of programs and opportunities create a lifelong impact. OFA is unique because there isn't an income limit. Would it be possible for OFA interns or fellows to attend an HRC meeting and share how the program has impacted their lives?

**Commissioner Aquino** thanked Director Davis and Sara Williams for their work. Thinking of the youth living in group homes and foster care having these types of opportunities available is joyful.

#### **8. 1:14:57 ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH ACTIVITIES (*Discussion Item*)**

Presentation of calendar of events honoring Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Presentation: Irene Yee Riley, **Commissioner, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**  
**Public Comment**

Commissioner Riley was excused from the meeting, the Commission Secretary presented a calendar list of activities celebrating the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Commissioner Hijazi attended the kickoff on May 4<sup>th</sup>, one of the best API heritage award ceremonies in recent memory. Commissioner Hijazi thanked Commissioner Riley, Claudine Cheng, Thomas Lee, and many others who coordinated this exciting, fun, and diverse program. At the end there was a youth performance, the young people represented different Asian Pacific Islander cultures from all over the world.

**9. 1:20:16 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE UPDATE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SUPPORTING ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES (*Discussion Item*)**

The Office of Racial Equity will present an update on their collaborative work supporting Public Safety initiatives and present the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Request for Proposal supporting community safety initiatives, cross-cultural activities, and transformation for Asian and Pacific Islander communities and wider communities in San Francisco.

**Presentation: Dr. Sheryl Davis, Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Sarah Tseng, Policy Director, Office of Racial Equity, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**  
**Public Comment**

Office of Racial Equity Policy Director Sarah Tseng and Athena Edwards presented information about the new request for proposal supporting community based public safety initiatives in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. \$400,000 in funding is available, applications are being accepted between Friday, May 13 2022 and June 30, 2022.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ace Washington would like to do a special project documenting the successes of the Human Rights Commission under the leadership of Director Davis. Mr. Washington remembers the time when Director Davis served as a Commissioner to today, as Director Dr. Davis. He would like to get a list the different programs that have been implemented, and the Commission Secretary offered to reach out to Mr. Washington to discuss how to



move forward. Mr. Washington is a historian and remembers a time when he and Director Davis had conversations when she was on Fillmore and Eddie Street.

**10. 1:30:58 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY** (*Discussion Item*)

Commissioners update the public on activities they have participated in and any upcoming events.

**Public Comment**

**Commissioner Riley through Chair Clopton:** Commissioner Riley, attended on May 9. The NAACP press conference addressing the spike in anti Asian hate crimes. NAACP leader Dr. Amos Brown and Captain Yolanda Williams held this press conference, urging San Francisco elected officials and the Black community to join them in stopping anti Asian hate. The NAACP is calling on Mayor Breed to issue a moratorium on hate crimes across the city. This is a joint effort bringing the Black and AAPI communities.

**Commissioner Aquino** Dogpatch Neighborhood Association is teaming up with Refuse, Refuse, SF Together, and DPW to host a community cleanup event on Sunday, May 15, from noon to 2:00pm at the northeast corner, 1300 Indiana Street. Commissioner Aquino attended Mayor London Breed's Cinco de Mayo celebration and immersive Frida Kahlo exhibit.

**Commissioner Hijazi**

Everyone is invited to Interfaith Ramadan at Grace Cathedral.

Vice President Harris hosted stakeholders whose work focuses on women's rights and civil rights issues at her home in honor of Women's History Month, Commissioner Hijazi was grateful to attend.

**Commissioner Pellegrini** celebrated the opening of 1321 Mission Street permanent supportive housing he has been working on for several years. Mayor Breed presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony.

**Commissioner Hijazi** has been working with Supervisor Catherine Stefani on a victim's rights services and legislation. She is a member of the Regional Council to Provide Housing. Commissioner Hijazi was honored to be invited by President Biden to attend the first official White House ceremony recognizing the end of Ramadan, but could not attend due to illness.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

7. **1:35:50 ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.

Transcription of the meeting minutes are available upon request to the Commission Secretary, [cathy.mulkeymeyer@sfgov.org](mailto:cathy.mulkeymeyer@sfgov.org).

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