
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2023 5:00 PM

ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS

Karen Clopton, Chairperson
Joseph Sweiss, Vice-Chairperson
Vanessa R. Aquino, 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

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:04pm.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement – **Commissioner Jason Pellegrini.**

1. 0:04 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Present: Karen Clopton, Ann Champion Shaw, Jason Pellegrini, Irene Yee Riley, Michael Sweet, Vanessa R. Aquino, Mark Kelleher

Absent: Joseph Sweiss, Leah Pimentel

Meeting was called to order with 7 Commissioners present.

2. 3:34 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.

There was no public comment on this item.

3. 5:07 ADOPTION OF THE January 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES *(Discussion and Possible Action Item)*

Public Comment

Commissioner Aquino: Her comment should have a "(/)" versus the spelling of slash in her comments.

Commissioner Sweet: Change "will" to "with" in first sentence of his comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion to adopt January 12, 2023 meeting minutes as amended: 1st Commissioner Sweet, 2nd Commissioner Aquino. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

4. 8:09 INDIAN AMERICAN MUSLIM COUNCIL PRESENTATION *(Discussion Item)*

Hindu Far Right in the United States: Threat to American Civil Rights from the ideology from the Hindu Far Right

Presentation: Dr. Rohit Chopra, Assoc. Professor Santa Clara University
Safa Ahmed, Media and Advocacy Assistant, Indian American Muslim Council

Public Comment

Presentation by Safa Ahmed and Dr. Chopra covered history of far right (RSS) in India, its spread throughout the nation's political landscape, and its influence in the United States. Call to action of the Commission is to remain informed and aware of this influence in politics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Chair Clopton: This presentation reflects the mass violence and hatred we have experienced in the recent week and in our history. Our State's "44 hours" witnessed three mass shootings in Monterey Park, Oakland, and Half Moon Bay. America was founded and sustained by violence; our agenda today highlights the global reach of the human rights ecosystem that our Commission operates within.

Commissioner Riley: There is a vigil tonight at Portsmouth Square in Chinatown in response to shootings.

Commissioner Aquino: Thank Dr. Chopra and Safa Ahmed, for your work and raising awareness (on this topic)

5. 36:42 PRELIMINARY DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 [Administrative Code Sec. 3.3(b)(1)] (Discussion Item)

Presentation: Dr. Sheryl Evans Davis, Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Jun Liang, Accounting and Finance, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Public Comment

Jun Liang presented on Human Rights Commission budget and timeline. Proposed budget is on the HRC website. All budgets must be turned in by March 1st 2023. We are required to demonstrate a 5% budget cut though this will not affect any of our grant funding.

Director Davis: I will advocate that we do not have (any) cuts to the budget. Our staffing is under our current number of approved positions, and we have been that way for over a year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darlene Roberts (remote): Founder of Jazz Ambassadors spoke on behalf of the Human Rights Commission and the accomplishments they made spending money in support of entrepreneurs and businesses in the community. Encourage you to keep this funding going.

COMMISSIONERS

Chair Clopton: Asked questions regarding the timing of the submitted budget and its presentation to the public and Commissioners for input.

Director Davis: No later than 15 days after this presentation we will do another engagement with community. Community input will be heard at next Commission meeting. Budget must be submitted to Mayors Office by Feb 21st. Mayors budget is submitted to Board of Supervisors by June 1, and the Board of Supervisors work on their version through June. Around June 14/15, we will need to go before Board and revise our budget if needed. If public supports or refutes proposed budget, they can go before Board of Supervisors during June budget review process. Budget meetings are public meetings. Public can always write the Mayor's Office in support of the HRC and in support of their budget not having any cuts. We will not know the Mayor's budget, and the proposed cuts until it is released in June.

Commissioner Sweet: Want to focus on the decision to move or reallocate funds from the dream keeper initiatives. And confirm or ask and ask the Director to confirm that we're not doing anything contra to the initiative or the funding?

Director Davis: Portion of funding dedicated to staff. HRC initially was to have only a part of the Dream Keepers Initiative (DKI) funding and did not plan for necessary staffing levels. We want salaries paid for out of salaries and benefits line item. We are not moving money, we are just putting it in the right account to ensure continuity of the program staffing.

6. 1:05:44 REPARATIONS REPORT *(Discussion Item)*

Presentation: Brittnei Chicuata, Director, Economic Rights | SF Human Rights Commission Update related to the activities of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee and its draft report.

Public Comment

Director Chicuata: Reparations report made to Board of Supervisors in December 2022. Upcoming hearing on Feb 7, with final plan to be submitted to Mayors office in June. Any local efforts, or "reparations" received by residents will not preclude potential state or federal benefits that may come. Director outlined criteria for reparations qualifications and

justifications – history – for each. The Director noted there are 111 recommendations made by the report; these reflect outcomes from four subcommittees: economic empowerment, education, health, and policy. Overall recommendations are for City of San Francisco to offer a formal apology, establish an independent office of reparations, and to create a and fund a committee of community stakeholders to ensure equity and continuity in the implementation of the policies and recommendations in the document.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Landry: Current member of the Reparations Task Force, noted the work is tremendous work, and with help of Director Davis and Human Rights Commission staff, the Mayor and supportive community, as well as Supervisor Shaman Walton for introducing the ordinance. Mr. Landry expressed his gratitude and wanted that on the record.

Darlene Roberts: (virtual): Expressed gratitude to Director Davis, a trailblazer in this work, and the “glue” holding communities together. “All we can do is try to get our kids to stand on the shoulders of those who came before them. Jazz is the voice of the people. Martin Luther King called it (jazz) soundtrack of the civil rights movement.”

COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chair Shaw: Commended committee and staff for the work they have done. “All eyes are on San Francisco.” Posed question regarding qualifications: what is meant by “descendant or certificate of preference holder”?

Director Chicuata: Certificates of preference are promissory notes that were distributed to those who were displaced by urban renewal. 12188 people were displaced and 98% of them were black.

Vice Chair Shaw: What we do is bigger than us and what we do will impact across the country affecting other cities and black residents.

Commissioner Jason Pellegrini: Do we know the approximate number of impacted individuals that would be able to apply for this? And will there be another public hearing before the Board of Supervisors hearing on February 7th?

Director Chicuata: The number is not in the document as this is a preliminary document; It will be retooled before the June submission. The qualifications will be refined and with that the number of people eligible will change. There are no more public hearings before the 7th. The Board of Supervisors meeting is public and you are all invited to attend. You are also

Commissioner Kelleher: Proud as San Franciscan we are setting a standard, a model, for this. What is the formula for reparations? Commissioner noted national standards and thought leadership around formulas per person; are we following those or using our own?

7. 1:43:21 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY *(Discussion Item)*

Public Comment

1. Fri Feb 3rd BHM Kickoff City Hall Rotunda, 12noon: [San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society \(sfaahcs.org\)](https://www.sfaahcs.org)
2. Thurs Feb 9th Dreaming Forward, A Celebration of Black Joy, Power and Excellence; SF Commonwealth Club 9am – 5pm: [Dreaming Forward: A Celebration of Black Joy, Power, and Excellence Tickets, Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
3. Wed Feb 15th Heartbeats, Drumbeats: Communities as One celebrates BHM and the LNY; this event will be held at the San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, Koret Auditorium from 5-8pm: [Heartbeats, Drumbeats: Communities As One \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)
4. Thursday Feb 23rd Human Rights Commission Retreat, location TBD 1-4:15pm

Commissioner Riley: Lots of events around Lunar New Year. First is at the Flower Market where families buy flowers to decorate their homes with. Then New Years Eve is a big event for Asian Community; families gather for dumplings and a big meal. Then Sunday, New Years Day, people

gather for a traditionally vegetarian meal, “in hope of no killing and peace and joy for the new year.” Little children will get red envelopes with lucky money inside, and new clothes and shoes to welcome new year. Celebration lasts 15 days. Chinese New Years parade will be Saturday February 4th. On the 15th Day is the Lantern Festival. And on Monday January 30 at City Hall the Mayor will hold a Lunar New Years celebration.

Chair Clopton: Launched Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition; coalition of statewide, regional, and local municipalities, elected and appointed officials, and community based organizations for women’s rights led by Kimberly Ellis, our executive director on the Commission for the Status of Women.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

8. 1:55:01 ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Chair Clopton: Adjourn meeting in honor of all those who were lost and those who survived the 44 hours of mass shootings in the state of California in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, and Oakland.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Commissioner Riley, 2nd Vice Chair Shaw

Transcription of the meeting minutes are available upon request to the Commission Secretary, john.mcknight@sfgov.org.