
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2023 5:00 PM

ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS

Karen Clopton, Chairperson
Ann Champion Shaw, Vice-Chairperson
Rodrigo Duran, Commissioner
Hasib Emran, Commissioner
Jayson Johnson, Commissioner
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner
Jason Pellegrini, Commissioner
Leah Pimentel, Commissioner
Irene Yee Riley, 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 5:03 pm.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement – **Commissioner Emran.**

1. 2:23 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Present: Karen Clopton, Ann Champion Shaw, Rodrigo Duran, Hasib Emran, Jason Pellegrini, Leah Pimentel, Michael Sweet, Mark Kelleher, Jayson Johnson, Irene Yee-Riley

Absent: none

Meeting called to order with 8 Commissioners present; Commissioners Sweet and Pimentel arrived shortly after roll call.

2. 3:57 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 on the Case: asked about “transparency” on the Fillmore Heritage Center project (former Yoshi’s). Asked to speak to Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Development. Stated he could not get answer from the office regarding status of the Fillmore heritage Center project.

Speaker 2: Regarding final Reparations draft report; he noted it is missing a couple of items he had written to the Committee about. He addressed the 25 companies that he had founded (American Economic Recovery Project Foundation and its affiliates). He sought to have these companies added to the report and in turn funding provided for them to launch.

3. 11:29 INTRODUCTION OF THE CITY’S FIRST DRAG LAUREATE, D’ARCY DROLLINGER (Discussion Item)

Self-Introduction and Commission welcome to the City’s first Drag Laureate, D’Arcy Drollinger.

Presentation: D’Arcy Drollinger, Drag Laureate, City and County of San Francisco

Public Comment

D’Arcy joined remotely from backstage of her evening performance. She stated it had been an incredibly exciting month. She stated it was very important for San Francisco to create a position like this, and for “embracing” the drag and LGBTQ community. She is excited to get to

work with agencies in the City. She looks forward to starting conversations and looking for ways to build some “sparkly fabulous bridges” not only around the city, but around the country.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Kelleher: Attended installation of the new Drag Laureate. Noted other cities, Los Angeles, and New York, have been working on similar positions and San Francisco was first to succeed.

Commissioner Johnson: Welcomed D’Arcy. Asked how the reception has been in San Francisco and around the country to the new appointment. D’Arcy answered that she has been overwhelmed by the support and excitement, and the new conversations that have opened up around the country and in the legislature. The attention is global, and she has done interviews on the BBC and with the independent in the UK. The negativity noted in this country around drag is not reflected in her daily life where she is supported and welcomed by people she meets on the street and at events. This is a powerful message, supporting the LGBTQ plus community, created by the instalment of this new position.

Chair Clopton: Noted the art of drag has been around for time immemorial; the City wants to create a safe space for performers and the artform. Requests for the presence of the Drag Laureate can be made using the City’s web page (placed in chat: [Drag Laureate Event Request Form \(google.com\)](#))

4. 22:26 ADOPTION OF THE June 8, 2023 MEETING MINUTES (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission’s June 8, 2023 meeting.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT/ACTION

Motion to adopt June 8, 2023 Meeting minutes as submitted: 1st Commissioner Sweet, 2nd Commissioner Pimentel. Motion carried by unanimous consent

5. **24:43 CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION UPDATE** (*Discussion Item*)

The Civil Rights Division of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission presents an update on their work and mission in 2023.

Presentation:

Stevon Cook, Director, Civil Rights Division, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Matthew Oglander, Investigator / Mediator, Civil Rights Division, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Public Comment

Director Cook opened by noting that over first 8 months of his time with HRC, the Division (Civil Rights Division – CRD) has focused on defining the “why” around the work they do; defining what are the team’s values. He welcomed the CRD team Matthew Oglander, Marilyn Flores, Nina Bajwa, and Jude Diebold.

CRD believes that for San Francisco to achieve his true potential as a city, the City, and the CRD team, must eradicate discrimination in all these forms. Community has been and remains a priority, and the Director cited Equity, Integrity, and Hope as core values of the team. He mentioned the area of impacts that are being focused on are around investigation, education, and legislation. The team, in partnership with the City Attorney, will deeper into “Housing Testing”.

He spoke to a new dashboard being developed to show the progress of the Divisions work, increasing the visibility of CRD’s work and services to people around the City, and a means for a continuous feedback loop on their services and work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Pimentel: Thanked the Director. Asked what would happen “after the testing” if housing discrimination is identified? Director Cook noted that the “testing” is aimed at providers, not housing/rent applicants. Matt Oglander stated that the City Attorney could decide to litigate based on the evidence obtained, and the Division might also, depending on the outcomes, decide to file a complaint with the California Civil Rights department, which has its own process for enforcement.

Commissioner Duran: Thanked and asked the Director to elaborate on the outreach plan and how they would better reach people in the many languages spoken in San Francisco. Director

Cook noted services are being promoted in the 5 City mandated languages and are adding others based on trends the Division is seeing. As for approach, the CRD is strategizing to get their services to be known by more people. Flyers are being crated for the first time and they are being brought into community. The team is creating a newsletter that can shar narratives around their work, and they are working to meet the City’s “Posting requirement” regarding every City contractor and housing provider; CRD needs a mailing strategy to get these out. Working with Labor Standards Enforcement on how to achieve this. Marilyn Flores from team is working on more community engagement, getting into the communities to inform people, educate groups, on CRD’s services.

Commissioner Pellegrini: Thanked the Director and stated he had sent people to the Division who he knew needed their services. Commissioner asked for numbers (next time the Division presents) showing changes in caseload/requests for service as potentially a result of the teams increased outreach. Numbers that could justify the Commission’s recommendation for increased staffing. Director Cook stated all goals are being tracked and next year the team will provide metrics on success.

Chair Clopton stated metrics are important and noted that success stories are important and hoped to have stories at next presentation.

Commissioner Duran asked if there was any cross pollination with the Immigrant Rights Commission. He noted they may have expertise in reaching communities and providing translation; this could help to connect with immigrant populations. Director Cook noted that the Divisions outreach would be a part of this year’s metrics. He added they are taking note of other City’s (he cited New York) approaches and learning from them.

Commissioner Johnson was glad to hear about added means to conduct outreach, such as the flyers, and asked about means to reach people with visual and hearing impairments.

Chair Clopton asked about implementation of the Fair Chance Ordinance. Matt Oglander stated outreach strategies, such as required posters housing providers are required to display, are in the works. Jude Diebold said the team is researching language that states what types of crimes cannot be looked at when person is being considered for housing; such things as reproductive health care and issues with Drag that are being outlawed in other states. Marilyn Flores stated she is looking int new laws that allow expungement of certain offenses, such as cannabis use. She continued by sharing what the Fair Chance Ordinance is for the education of new Commissioners.

Commissioner Riley asked if the multi-language flyer could be shared with the Commissioners. Flyer will be shared out via the Secretary.

6. **51:35 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY** *(Discussion Item)*

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

Public Comment

Commissioner Pimentel attended Juneteenth at the Embarcadero. Great food and an amazing turnout.

Vice Chair Shaw Attended Juneteenth Parade and enjoyed the unity that was present for the celebration.

Commissioner Pellegrini Attended 2nd Annual Juneteenth kickoff at City Hall; lots of dancers and performers and apparently great food though he had to leave before it was served.

Commissioner Johnson Attended the Juneteenth Gala cohosted by San Francisco Black Wallstreet; an amazing event.

Commissioner Duran Attended Juneteenth celebration at City Hall; he bought his whole family to the event; great music and noted the importance history of the music presented.

Commissioner Riley Joined in first consolidated meeting of Stand Together SF and Campaign for Solidarity. Their first in-person meeting will be July 11 and a flyer will be shared out via the Secretary.

Chair Clopton noted all the amazing Juneteenth events that went off wonderfully. She noted the “Evolution of Black Music in America”, the parade, the kickoff and so many other events in neighborhoods across the City. This coming weekend will be a celebration of Pride. So many amazing events in the City.

She added the Commission has two meetings coming up. In July the Commission only meets once on July 13, and then the Commission meets in community on August 10th at a location to be determined; the August meeting will be focused on the Reparations Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ace on the Case cited how amazing the Juneteenth events have been. He then returned to the issue of connecting him to the Director responsible for the management of the Fillmore Heritage Center work. He thanked the Commission.

7. **1:0407 ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

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

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