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# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

## ***SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION***

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

**September 28, 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

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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)

**The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.**

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

**1. 2:38 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Present:** Karen Clopton, Rodrigo Duran, Hasib Emran, Irene Yee Riley, Leah Pimentel

**Absent:** Ann Champion Shaw, Jayson Johnson, Jason Pellegrini, Mark Kelleher, Michael Sweet

The meeting was called to order with 4 Commissioners present; Commissioner Pimentel arrived shortly after roll call. Quorum was not met.

**2. 3:54 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.

Speaker 1: Addressed the Commission stating that an individual's first right is that "you own yourself"; it is your private property. Speaker 1 continued to share that "your" reason for being is happiness.

Margaret McNulty: New President of City-Wide Council of Seniors and Disabled (CCSD). Stated her wish to put positive energy towards the Human Rights Commission and what "you" do. She and CCSD stand with anti-bullying campaigns for kids and for people of all ages. Thanked the Commission for their work.

David Woods: Member of CCSD. Noted challenges faced as a resident at TNDC (Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Center); he shared the building management manage the building and not the tenants. Maintenance (requested) is an issue. He stated he feels his, and resident's, needs are falling on deaf ears.

**3. 4:32 ADOPTION OF THE August 10, 2023 MEETING MINUTES** *(Discussion and Possible Action Item)*

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission's August 10, 2023 meeting.

**Public Comment**

This item was tabled until the October 12, 2023 meeting as quorum had not been reached.

4. **10:17 RECOGNITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY** (*Discussion Item*)

Brief statement from Association of Ramaytush Ohlone on the importance of the day recognizing Native American Day and California Native American Day which is celebrated on the fourth Friday in September.

**Presentation: Gregg Castro**, Association of Ramaytush Ohlone/American Indian Cultural District

**Public Comment**

**Greg Castro:** Thanked the Commission, one of the first bodies to adopt the Land Acknowledgement. He shared the importance of California Native American Day as the history of the indigenous peoples of the United States is being erased. Education on Native American history in K-12 is minimal regarding their history and is likely inaccurate. He shared how the community of non-profits and himself have worked over the last 30 years on upgrading the curriculum. He noted the matter is about more than history; it is about a community trauma experienced every day.

He shared San Francisco has one of the largest and most diverse communities of Urban Native Americans.

**Chair Clopton:** Thanked the speaker and cited the example of grade school “Mission Projects” that reinforce a misrepresentation of the treatment and status of the native peoples at the Missions of California.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment on this item

**Commissioner Comment**

**Commissioner Duran:** Asked Mr. Castro to elaborate on the work that either the association of Ramaytush Olone or the American Indian Cultural District (AICD) has done in past year. Gregg Castro stated the two work collaboratively. The challenge is working to confront and repair the erasure of the history of the people who were originally here. The work began with the Portola Expedition Commemoration, working with the National Parks. They are working with many agencies, in and out of the government, (i.e. Exploratorium, Presidio Trust, Alcatraz, De Young Museum, and more).

**Commissioner Emran:** Thanked the speaker and noted this year’s theme, celebrating the 56th annual California Native American Day, is “protecting our people through sovereignty,

past, present and future.” He noted the importance of the work to keep history alive and our children educated with “the entire picture.”

**Chair Clopton:** Thanked the speaker and noted November will have an in-depth presentation by the AICD.

**5. 26:12 PRESENTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2023-2024**

*(Discussion Item)*

Presentation on the Department’s Approved 2023-2024 Budget.

**Presentation: Sheryl Davis, Executive Director**, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**Jun Liang, Senior Administrative Analyst**, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**Public Comment**

**Jun Liang:** Presented on the 2023-2024 Approved budget for the Human Rights Commission; presentation is on the HRC website located on the 28 September, 2023 Commission meeting. He discussed the budget process, defined what “Add Backs” are, and presented on the line items for the approved budget while comparing it to last year’s. He added that there is carryover from the 2023 budget, and as Director Davis commented, this is due to ongoing RFP’s. Mr. Liang noted the required 5% reduction in operating costs, and the removal of \$2mil in reserve funding; this constitutes approximately \$400K. However, he noted, the Department received more than \$2.5 mil in add-back funding. Additionally, the Department received \$2mil for the formation of the Office of Reparations.

Director Davis added the growth of the Department, and the focus now is to build the infrastructure to support the growing department. She added the funding for the Office of Reparations had not yet been approved to be spent.

**Public Comment**

**Margaret McNulty:** Asked how the Office of Reparations funds would be spent once approval is received to move forward. She added her hope that the money would be spent as quickly as possible once the “go ahead” is received.

**Commissioner Comment**

**Commissioner Pimentel:** Asked if the \$2mil add back dollars were to address the removal of the reserve funding.

Director Davis responded noting the \$2mil add back tied to the Office of Reparations is specifically for that project; it was not there to address the removal of the reserve funding.

**Commissioner Duran:** Asked for clarification of how much funding was carried forward, how has the Office of Transgender Initiatives grown or how the Director sees it growing in the coming year, and what does the acronym “THAC” stand for in the Native American population?

Director Davis addressed the funds that were “carried forward” were tied to projects put forward by Supervisors and these projects took time to initiate; in one case the responsibility for our Department to act on a project was not discovered until recently. The carryover helped to ensure timely response to grant funding on projects that carried over from previous year.

Regarding the Office of Transgender Initiatives, that office resides within the Office of The Administrator, and they do not have grant making authority. Funding for their outreach and engagement initiatives remains with HRC; their staff focusses mostly on policy. Lastly, THAC refers to Truth, Reconciliation and Healing.

**Commissioner Riley:** Asked for clarity regarding HRC Total budget, under the Operating Fund, what is the City Grant Program

Jun Liang responded that this is a budget line-item term; it is the “bucket” where RFP grant dollar’s fall in to while they await to be dedicated to a recipient; once there is a destination for these dollars (a grant), then the dollars move to the Program fund.

**6. 56:31 VOTE ON COMMISSION’S SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN REPARATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS** *(Discussion and Action Item)*

Commissioners will discuss and vote on proposed motion from September 14 2023 meeting: “The Human Rights Commission fully endorses the African American Reparations Committee Report and Recommendations and adds the names of the Commissioners to the Report in support.”

**Presentation: Karen Clopton, Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**

**Public Comment**

**Chair Clopton:** Noted this item, a discussion of the status of the enactment of the Reparations Report, will remain on the agenda going forward. The Commission has not met Quorum during this meeting and the vote will be tabled until the October 12 meeting.

**7. 59:29 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY** *(Discussion Item)*

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

**Public Comment**

**Commissioner Duran** This evening is Latino Heritage Month celebration at City Hall.

**Commissioner Emran** Last Friday attended Chinese Cultural Services Center's event honoring Harrison Lim.

**Commissioner Riley** Attended (virtually) the Board of Supervisor's meeting on Reparation; heard speeches by Director Davis And Chair Clopton.

**Chair Clopton** Attended Reparations Rally and hearing. Next will attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the San Francisco Foundation

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Margaret McNulty:** Thanked the Commission and noted she is impressed by the work they are doing. Looking forward to becoming an active part of the work being done here.

**8. 1:07:58 ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Chair Clopton closed meeting in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the San Francisco Foundation.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Commissioner Riley, 2nd Commissioner Pimentel

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