
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Draft Meeting Minutes

December 14, 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

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm.

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

1. 5:50 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Absent: Michael Sweet, Mark Kelleher,

The meeting was called to order with 7 Commissioners present; Vice Chair Shaw arrived at 5:20pm.

2. 6:52 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 comment on this item

3. 7:48 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE November 9, 2023 MEETINGS

(Discussion and Possible Action Item)

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission’s November 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT/ACTION

Motion to adopt November 9, 2023 Meeting minutes as submitted: 1st Commissioner Johnson, 2nd Commissioner Emran. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

4. 9:46 AFRICAN AMERICAN REPARATIONS UPDATES (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

Update and Discussion of Reparations work going forward.

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

Public Comment

Chair Clopton commented on the need for continued action and attention to keep the movement towards reparations going. She asked and hoped the Commission would keep this as an ongoing agenda item, and she noted that there is a list, presented by Director Davis at the September 14, 2023 meeting of the Commission, that showed actions that can be taken without significant funding and by the work of the Human Rights Commission staff and Commissioners. She went on to talk about each item on the list:

1. Formal Apology
2. Establish Office of Reparations
3. Support Statewide Reparations Efforts
4. Landmark Preservation
5. Black Historical Cultural Centers
6. Gun Violence Intervention Model
7. Audit War on Drugs Policies
8. Declare Community Violence as a Public Health Crisis
9. Culturally Responsive Substance Abuse Services
10. Increase Voter/Civic Engagement Participation
11. Support Efforts to Repeal Proposition 209
12. HBCU Satellite
13. Support for Our Seniors

Vice Chair Shaw spoke to item 2 and the three historic Black churches of San Francisco: Bethel AME, 3rd Baptist, and First AME Zion Church.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

5. 30:46 TENDERLOIN COMMUNITY BENEFIT DISTRICT *(Discussion and Possible Action Item)*

Presentation by staff from Tenderloin Community Benefit District (TLCBD) on the area's diversity and the neighborhood's abundance of families and children, and how the TLCBD works to support the youth of the Tenderloin.

Presentation: Kate Robinson, Executive Director, TLCBD

Esan Looper, Director - Youth Voice, TLCBD

Public Comment

Director Robinson opened by thanking the Human Rights Commission for their impactful work in the Tenderloin during the COVID response, especially their work in providing safe places, "safe passage", for children living there.

Director Looper spoke to the TLCBD, a "Community Benefit District", and how it is different from the traditional CBD. He noted they CBD focuses on children and their families, seniors, and

small businesses. Our staff at TLCBD is 50% Tenderloin residents, and they aim to increase that percentage. He went on to speak to the Safe Program to create a clean, safe, and positively activated neighborhood. He described the work of the Safe Passage Program and the people who help others to move and walk safely through the neighborhood; a neighborhood that has 15% of the city's most dangerous crossings. The Safe Passage Program is celebrating 15 years of action. Additionally, he spoke to park stewardship and how this program keeps their parks positively activated for residents to use.

Both Directors talked about their Clean Teams. In other CBD's, this is contracted work. In 2005 TLCBD bought this workforce in-house so to better manage both the work and the well-being of the people. Working on the streets is hard in this neighborhood, and they wanted to have Tenderloin residents do the work, have the jobs, and for all of them to receive the support needed to do this task each day. They spoke of the challenges the neighborhood faces, the issues of maintaining cleanliness and safety, particularly at night, and shared the beauty of this unique place in the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Johnson asked the Directors about how they engage youth with the idea and prospect of returning to the community: "coming back and getting involved."

Director Robinson said they focus on jobs, and she cited the example of a young man who worked through the TLCBD and that led to him being picked up by the City in Planning for the Tenderloin. She cited her life experience growing up in the Tenderloin and noted that their work in giving youth access to jobs, job placement and counseling is their approach. Director Loper cited the great work of Larkin Street Youth and noted the TLCBD became involved in supporting Transitional Age Youth (TAY) since Larkin Street is the only services around, and youth from the Tenderloin do not go there. Te staff builds relationships with the youth and from that foundation of trust is able to get them to look at opportunities within the neighborhood and beyond.

Commissioner Johnson asked for more information on the collaborations TLCBD engages in. Director Looper spoke to the Tenderloin After School Program Collaborative"; this includes all of the after-school programming and involves several schools including the Tenderloin Community School, Francisco Middle School, De Marillac Academy, and many others.

Commissioner Duran cited his work and though it has largely been in the Mission, he is becoming aware of the needs of the Tenderloin. He asked regarding the announced \$8m federal grant awarded to SFMTA for street and safety improvements in the Tenderloin, is TLCBD involved in the process.

Director Robinson responded and noted “Eric” their Director of Safe Programs is co-chair of the Tenderloin Safety Taskforce; this group has been instrumental in pushing for the funding to come to the Tenderloin in this way. This has been a very community driven process. Director Looper added that the outreach for community input will happen at the three parks in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Pimentel thanked the speakers and their passion for the work. She asked about their engagement with youth and if they have access to agencies such as hospitals that can offer exposure to different career opportunities their youth might not know about.

Director Looper noted their youth programs (TAY) are just getting started; they are in their first year. Yes, they are offering job fairs and information, and noted there is much more they can do, and will do, to expose youth to jobs and career options.

Commissioner Emran noted he is a Tenderloin resident, and he attends the mosque on Jones and Market, the oldest mosque in California. He noted the Tenderloin is “two sides of a coin”; during the day is vibrant and full of people, kids, and families, but at night it becomes a different story. He noted the open-air drug market, how people come from far away to buy and use drugs, and that this is not acceptable; the conditions on the street must improve.

Director Robinson noted that their work and all they do eventually is impacted by the prevalence of drug dealing, use, and the violence that is a part of it. Safe Passage responds daily to emergencies on the street. Overdoses happen daily and all staff carry Narcan. Kids grow up and see this through their lives. She cited the lifespan of a Tenderloin resident is 10 years less than someone in a neighboring community. This is a low-income neighborhood of color that exists in a war zone. TLCBD is active and “at the table” where discussions and actions around the drug trade are happening. They elevate the community voice. The Tenderloin has many non-profits, small businesses (300 and 87% owned by women immigrants of color) and these are closing because of the impact of the drug trade.

Commissioner Emran asked about the new skate park by the Civic Center and how it is going. Director Robinson responded by noting that when things get better at Civic Center (UN Plaza), they get worse in the Tenderloin. People get moved and with that movement comes the negative behaviors. As important as this plaza is, it sadly causes trouble in the Tenderloin when UN Plaza improves and displaces negative behaviors that had been there.

Commissioner Riley thanked the speakers and noted she learned a lot from the presentation. She asked about their funding; how is the good work funded.

Director Robinson noted that tax assessment is about a third of their funding, and they do a lot of fundraising on top of that. She added they need help with funding for their parks. The TLCBD has 25 park stewards on staff that open and close the parks and manage their activation; this work is funded through OEWD. TLCBD has to fight for this funding every year and public park space safety should be a budgeted item.

6. **1:31:35 2024 COMMISSION CALENDAR AND NEW OFFICER ELECTION PLANS** (*Discussion and Possible Action Item*)

Presentation of Commission meeting calendar for 2024, and discussion of upcoming elections for new Commission Officers.

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

John McKnight, Commission Secretary, Human Rights Commission

Public Comment

Chair Clopton stated the need for all Commissioners to be present at the first meeting of the year, January 11, 2024, for the elections of the new Officers (Chair and Vice Chair). She noted that due to having three vacancies, it is important Commissioners make attendance a priority especially until these positions are filled. She added that the two newest Commissioners have come forward and expressed an interest in leadership. The Jan 11 meeting will be led by Commissioner Sweet, and the election of the Chair will be the first item on the agenda. Once the Chair is selected, that person will take over running the meeting. Then the Vice Chair will be elected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Emran stated for the record he would like to be considered for leadership and would reach out to the Commissioners individually.

Commissioner Duran added his intent to be considered for leadership for the coming year.

7. **1:39:21 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 During APEC there were any activities. She attended the Korean Art and Wine Social for APEC 2023, the Chinatown Night Market, and a dinner with the Hong Kong Trading Economic Office with the Hong Kong Financial Secretary, meeting with representative of the Bureau of East Asian and Public Affairs, and then finally the Bay Area Real Estate Panel hosted by the Asian American Bankers. Lastly, she attended Stand Together SF on January 24th hosted by the Human Rights Commission.

Commissioner Johnson attended the annual celebration and show “The Golden Girls Live” produced by San Francisco Drag Laureate D’Arcy Drollinger; this show is running through December 23rd at the Victoria Theater. Also attended Toys for Tots at the Westin Saint Francis; this event is in partnership with the San Francisco Fire Fighters Union Local 798 Toy Program, with volunteers from the Gay for Good dot Org produced by Greg Lynn. Finally, he had his swearing-in ceremony at City Hall and had the opportunity to visit the Human Rights Commission Offices and staff afterwards.

Commissioner Duran joined in with the 85th Anniversary of the San Francisco Breakfast Club with Chair Clopton and Commissioner Emran. This Sunday December 17th the Mission Food Hub is having their Holiday Toy Drive and Distribution; they are looking to give away toys to 2000 children; the event is at 701 Alabama St from 11am-4pm.

Commissioner Emran will join Wreaths Across America on this upcoming Saturday December 16 at the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio.

Chair Clopton joined and provided opening remarks at an event with speaker Jelani Cobb at USF marking the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Attended the 100th Anniversary of the NAACP here in San Francisco and the Executive Director Sheryl Davis was honored. Joined with Commissioner Emran and Commissioner Duran at the 85th Anniversary of the San Francisco Breakfast Club.

Chair Clopton closed with gratitude for her 5 years serving on the Commission, and Vice Chair Shaw thanked all present for the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair this past year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item

8. 1:57:30 ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

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.