



City and County of San Francisco

# Commission on the Status of Women

Mayor London N. Breed

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

5:00 pm

San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

### Roster:

President Dr. Shokooh Miry (excused)

Vice President Sophia Andary

Commissioner Sharon Chung

Commissioner Diane Jones Lowrey

Commissioner Dr. Anne Moses (excused)

Commissioner Dr. Raveena Rihal

Commissioner Ani Rivera (excused)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

**Vice President Sophia Andary called the meeting to order at 5:11pm.** Mr. Cameron Lucas performed roll call, confirmed 4 of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Mr. Lucas read the land acknowledgement,

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the regular Commission meeting on December 12, 2023, and the Special Commission meeting on January 19, 2024.

#### **A. Action: To approve Minutes from the regular Commission meeting on December 12, 2023.**

No public comment.

(Roll Call Vote) Rihal/Chung – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

#### **B. Action: To approve Minutes from the special Commission meeting on January 19, 2024.**

No public comment.

(Roll Call Vote) Rihal/Jones Lowrey – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

### III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In lieu of a verbal Director's Report, Director Ellis instead elected to focus on the subject of the night's presentation on the budget. Explained that the Department has been working hard on this budget in negotiation with the Mayor's Budget Office (MBO) in order to fulfill the needs of the community it serves as well as the directives of MBO.

#### **Commissioner Comment:**

No Comment

## **No Public Comment**

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRIORITIES FY24-26**

Director Ellis presented on the Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget priorities.

While there are general fund reductions requested by MBO, Department is proud of the work done to protect the baseline contract amounts of grantees, whose contracts will remain unaffected.

Director Ellis centered the discussion on the three-pronged role of the Department as watchdog and accountability partner, chief advocate on all issues related to gender parity and community convener. Spoke to the mission and vision of the Department in discussing the budget reductions that needed to be made.

As part of a mid-year budget reduction, Departmental budget was reduced by roughly \$1.35 million. Additional reductions will be required in FY 25-26. In future budget years, the Department will be reducing its staff size to meet budgetary needs.

While the current cuts are 10%, a 5% contingency was requested by MBO in case of a worsening economic outlook for the City. This will likely delay the growth of programming in the core service areas and prevent one-time programming from becoming ongoing services. The Department will also likely be unable to provide capacity-building funds to grantees.

The good news is that there will be no cuts to grantees' baseline budgets for the next two fiscal years thanks to prudent financial planning on the Department's end.

#### **Commissioner Comment:**

Commissioner Jones Lowrey asked after the 5% contingency and when the Department would be aware of whether those reductions will need to be made.

Director Ellis answered that the Department is in regular contact with MBO and will be informed if the need arises. There is a large City-wide deficit being faced that every Department must do their part in addressing.

Vice President Andary asked about the full-time employees of the Department and how FTE positions will be funded despite General Fund cuts.

Director Ellis answered that through mid-cycle performance reviews, the Department has been able to identify unspent funds that, if unused by the end of the Fiscal Year, will be returned to the Department to fill potential budget gaps.

#### **Public Comment:**

Debbie Lehrman – SF Public – Provided the Commission and Department with a white-paper on the importance of ensuring communities served, especially historically underserved communities, are protected during budget cuts.

### **V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Emberly Cross – Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic (CROC) – With recent federal and state funds being cut, everyone is feeling the tightening of the belt. Shared how CROC has been recently affected by these cuts in reducing of their staffing. Looks forward to how we can all work together to address these shortfalls.

Bev Upton – San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium – With news of the budget shortfalls is working to secure more money for services desperately needed by women in San Francisco.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned at 5:48pm.