



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM

2. Roll Call

- **Present Commissioners:**
Pedro Anaya, Cinnamon Clark, Angela Elliot-Santos, Eleanor Evans, Rodney Fowler Sr., Christina Griffin-Jones, Taha Hassane, Adeem Ismaeil, George Khoury, Kelly Martinez, Ellen Nash, Gina Roberts, Dwaine Woodley for Summer Stephan, David Vance, Alex Villafuerte
- **Excused Absences:**
Kate Clark, Kay Coleman, Estela De Los Rios, Sarah Farouq, Julia Legaspi,
- **Late:**
Dennis Hodges, Nicole Murray Ramirez
- **Absent:**
David Garcias

3. Land Acknowledgement

- Mr. Strong read a script recognizing and acknowledging Indigenous people that called (what is now) San Diego County home for a millennia

4. Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)

- Read Motion to allow for subcommittees to continue to meet virtually until the emergency order expires
- Vote:
 - Anaya – Aye
 - Clark, C – Aye
 - Clark, K – Absent
 - Coleman, K - Absent
 - De Los Rios - Absent
 - Elliot-Santos – Aye
 - Evans – Aye
 - Farouq – Absent
 - Fowler Sr. – Aye
 - Garcias – Absent
 - Griffin-Jones – Aye
 - Hassane – Aye
 - Hodges – Aye

- Ismaeil – Aye
 - Khoury – Aye
 - Legaspi – Absent
 - Martinez - Aye
 - Murray Ramirez – Absent
 - Nash – Aye
 - Roberts – Aye
 - Woodley – Aye
 - Vance - Aye
 - Villafuerte – Aye
 - Motion passes
5. Public Comment: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Commission on any subject matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction, but not an item on today’s agenda
- Commissioner Griffin-Jones:
Received an email from some constituents regarding incarcerations, I encourage we remove toxic and anti-human relation building commissioners from our commission. To make this a safe place for the community.
 - Sonia Robertson (member of the public):
I’ve been engaged with our County regional departmental framework, good strategy to move forward to decarbonize our region within the next 30 years, I observed some inequitable process related to this, a letter was sent to BOS Vargas and BOS Lawson-Remer. Will send email to Chair Nash.
6. Celebratory/Awareness Month or Day: LGBTQ Awareness Month follow-up, Black History Month
- LGBTQ Awareness Month f/u – Will be presented at March meeting.
 - Commissioner Cinnamon Clark:
Reflected on Black History Month and the history of it.
 - Sonia Robertson (member of the public):
BIPOC at large do not want to be identified as disadvantage communities.
7. Action Item: Support for Friendship Park, Support for Bayard Rustin Stamp Campaign presented by Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez
- Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez:
Gave brief description of Friendship Park history and where it stands today.
 - Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez to vote to support movement – write letter, Commissioner Khoury seconded the motion.
 - Vote:
 - Anaya – Aye
 - Clark, C – Aye
 - Clark, K – Absent
 - Coleman, K - Absent
 - De Los Rios - Absent
 - Elliot-Santos – Aye
 - Evans – Aye
 - Farouq – Absent
 - Fowler Sr. – Aye
 - Garcias – Absent
 - Griffin-Jones – Aye
 - Hassane – Aye

- Hodges – no answer
- Ismaeil – Aye
- Khoury – Aye
- Legaspi – Absent
- Martinez - Aye
- Murray Ramirez – Aye
- Nash – Aye
- Roberts – Abstain
- Woodley – Aye
- Vance - Aye
- Villafuerte – Aye
- Motion Passes
- Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez:
Gave brief description on Bayard Rustin, currently there is a national campaign to have him on a stamp.
- Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez motion to vote to support Bayard Rustin on a stamp – with a letter, Commissioner Evans seconded the motion.
- Vote:
 - Anaya – Aye
 - Clark, C – Aye
 - Clark, K – Absent
 - Coleman, K - Absent
 - De Los Rios - Absent
 - Elliot-Santos – Aye
 - Evans – Aye
 - Farouq – Absent
 - Fowler Sr. – Aye
 - Garcias – Absent
 - Griffin-Jones – Aye
 - Hassane – Abstain
 - Hodges – no answer
 - Ismaeil – Aye
 - Khoury – Aye
 - Legaspi – Absent
 - Martinez - Aye
 - Murray Ramirez – Aye
 - Nash – Aye
 - Roberts – Abstain
 - Woodley – Aye
 - Vance - Aye
 - Villafuerte – Aye
- Motion Passes

8. County Counsel training by Randall Sjoblom on the new AB 2449 (2022) Brown Act teleconferencing rules and Rules of Order

- Randall Sjoblom presented regarding Brown Act Teleconferencing rules and Rules of Order
- Questions/comments:
Commissioner Griffin-Jones:
Q: If we had to travel for our personal jobs, would that count as a reason to miss in-person and

call-in?

A: Mr. Sjoblom - That does not count, only if the County asked you to travel for reasons pertaining to the HRC. If you wanted to call in and be considered a member of the public you could call in, but you cannot vote or have a Commissioner say.

Commissioner Griffin-Jones:

Q: If I was able to call from a coffee shop, can I do it?

A: Mr. Sjoblom - Yes, but you would need to post the agenda 72 hours before meeting, but if members of the public want to attend at the coffee shop, you will have to share your technology so they can participate as well.

Commissioner Griffin-Jones:

Q: Childcare, caregiving need – is proof needed for just cause?

A: Mr. Sjoblom - we are not here to double check or investigate you, you just have to meet the law. Biological or adoption, if it is beyond that, it does not count. You must inform the Chair and Andrew Strong.

Commissioner Khoury:

Q: If I am traveling and follow the rules, can I still attend?

A: Mr. Sjoblom - Yes, you can.

Commissioner Ismaeil:

Q: Can I have an alternative in my stead if I am unable to attend? It was my understanding that I was able to when I joined the HRC.

A: Mr. Sjoblom - That is not a Brown Act issue, this is a Commission issue. Your governing documents have to allow for it.

A: Mr. Strong - At this time only the DA and Sheriff can have alternatives, but we will double check.

Commissioner Griffin-Jones:

Q: Is there any advocacy that we can do to bring to the State? Because a lot of these rules are negatively impacting us.

A: Mr. Sjoblom - You always have the opportunity to reach out to your State legislatures, assemblymen and senators. You can let your BOS know the impact for you and they could raise the issue.

A: Mr. Strong - We can have the Legislative Subcommittee discuss this and bring to Caroline Smith's office.

Commissioner Anaya:

Q: Assuming we follow all By-Laws are we allowed to rotate the meeting locations?

A: Mr. Sjoblom - Yes, as long as it works for your Commission. Also note these new rules about emergency rules and just cause sunsets in 2025.

9. Future in-person HRC Meetings: Time, Date and location

- Mr. Strong: Recommend having the first in-person meeting at County Operations Center (COC).
- Commissioner Khoury:
Let's have it central at County Administration Center (CAC) and in the evenings about 6-8p.

- Commissioner Evans:
I agree we should have evening meetings, but not at CAC. Prefer COC for easier parking.
- Commissioner Clark:
I agree with CAC location or library in the area of the CAC.
Q: When is the next meeting date?
A: Mr. Strong - March 21st.
- Commissioner Ismaeil:
I think a designated location and consistent time would be better. And let's remember members of the public being able to attend our meetings, consider having location near public transport or easy parking.
- Commissioner Khoury:
Q: Can we change our current meeting day of the third Tuesday of the month to another day?
A: Mr. Strong - We can create a poll for all Commissioners to see what day would be best for individual schedules.
- Chair Nash:
We have never missed quorum on this day and time (Third Tuesday 10a-12p).
- Commissioner Roberts: Motion to hold March meeting at COC, Commissioner Khoury: Seconds the motion.
- Vote:
 - Anaya – Aye
 - Clark, C – Aye
 - Clark, K – Absent
 - Coleman, K - Absent
 - De Los Rios - Absent
 - Elliot-Santos – Abstain
 - Evans – Aye
 - Farouq – Absent
 - Fowler Sr. – Aye
 - Garcias – Absent
 - Griffin-Jones – Nay
 - Hassane – Aye
 - Hodges – Aye
 - Ismaeil – Aye
 - Khoury – Aye
 - Legaspi – Absent
 - Martinez - Aye
 - Murray Ramirez – no answer
 - Nash – Aye
 - Roberts – Aye
 - Woodley – Aye
 - Vance - Aye
 - Villafuerte – Aye
- Motion Passes

10. Selection process for all Officers' seats: Chair and two Vice Chairs

- Mr. Strong reviewed with the Commissioners: Bylaws: Article IV – Officers.

- Commissioner Khoury:
We already have two-vice chairs, the bylaws say one, do we nominate one or two?
A: Mr. Strong: Two, will send out the process and submitting names to us.
- Chair Nash:
At our meeting in March, we will dedicate time to this selection process and further discussion.
- Commissioner Clark:
Q: Is it possible to send out the terms, of who is termed out?
A: Mr. Strong: Yes.

11. Sheriff Kelly Martinez to speak on In-Custody Deaths

- Sheriff Kelly Martinez presented a PowerPoint about In-Custody Deaths.
- Questions/Comments?

Commissioner Khoury:

Q: Last few weeks there have been several articles about Sheriffs department in responding to CLERB and promises made. What are your answers to those allegations?

A: Sherriff Martinez - The Sheriff department has work to do in building relationship(s) with CLERB. We ask individuals in custody where they want to be housed [Male or Female jail], and then we do an evaluation of their criminal history, their behavior while in custody, any possible threat they may pose to the population. We work with our LGBTQ council to make sure that all populations are safe.

Tom Packard (member of the public):

I am encouraged to hear that you are working on your relationship with CLERB, and secondly, you said that it is untrue that you are not screening all staff. It would help if you had more detail to share with CLERB and the community. I hope you are open to having public meetings with people from the community.

Response: Sherriff Martinez - There are a lot of things we are doing well, but we aren't communicating as well as we should be to the public. I appreciate your comment.

Commissioner Griffin-Jones:

Q: Who was killed in custody due to their fentanyl reaction. You said Sheriffs carry medication to counter act that. Why wasn't that given to this individual?

A: Sherriff Martinez - People who are using drugs, in our facility do everything they can to hide it, if they take it after a deputy leaves the module or if they are with an individual who will not report an overdose it does not take long for a death to occur. So, we did not have the opportunity to provide this individual the care. There is no final diagnosis of death, however our suspicion is fentanyl related.

Q: How long does it take for an individual to no longer be savable from fentanyl poisoning?

A: I do not know since I am not a doctor.

Q: Are there any records being given to this person's family? What is the support being given to the family?

A: Yes they have been receiving support, I am not able to share more than that.

- Chair Nash: I invite and encourage you to join Public Safety subcommittee to further delve into

this issue.

12. Subcommittee Updates

- Chair Nash: Would like to acknowledge Commissioner Evans on doing a great job at our first Meet & Greet in Oceanside. Our next Meet & Greet will be in South bay lead by Pedro Anaya on March 8th.
- Chair Nash: Acknowledge our Essential Partners and the work we are doing with them. I cannot wait to see what the end product will look like.

13. Discussion of community raised matters relating to the Commission promoting positive human relations. Discussion is limited to 15 minutes which may include the Commission placing the matter on a future agenda for possible action.

- Not discussed.

14. Staff Updates

- Commissioner Villafuerte – Last HRC meeting, bid his farewell to the Commissioners.

15. Announcements

- None.

16. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Next Meeting of the Commission:

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.