

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco  
*London N. Breed, Mayor*

The seal of the City and County of San Francisco is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a central figure of a Minuteman holding a rifle, standing on a rocky shore. Above the figure is an eagle with wings spread. The text "THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO" is written in a circular path around the central image. Below the figure, there is a banner with the motto "EUREKA" and another banner with the motto "ORO EN PAZ FIERRO EN GUERRA".

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 24, 2024, 5:00 PM**  
San Francisco City Hall, Room 416  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Leah Pimentel, Chair  
Hasib Emran, Vice Chair  
Rodrigo Durán, Commissioner  
Jayson Johnson, Commissioner  
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner  
Jason Pellegrini, Commissioner  
Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner  
Amerika Sanchez, Commissioner  
Robert Sandoval, Commissioner  
Michael Sweet, Commissioner  
Rosie Williams, Commissioner

**Mawuli Tugbenyoh**  
Acting Executive Director

**Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.**

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement – **Commissioner Amerika Sanchez.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Present:** Leah Pimentel, Hasib Emran, Mark Kelleher, Jason Pellegrini, Amerika Sanchez, Robert Sandoval, Michael Sweet

**Absent:** Rodrigo Durán, Jayson Johnson, Irene Yee Riley, Rosie Williams.

Meeting was called to order with 7 Commissioners present

**2. 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 public comment on this item.

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 AND OCTOBER 10, 2024 MEETINGS**

(*Discussion and Possible Action Item*)

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission’s September 26, 2024 and October 10, 2024 meetings.

**Public Comment**

Two amendments to the October 10, 2024 meeting minutes on page 3. Chair Leah Pimentel asked to schedule a board retreat. Amerika Sanchez made the comment on Page 3, not Rosie Williams.

Vice Chair Hasib Emran moved to adopt the September 26, 2024 and October 10, 2024 meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Sanchez, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**Affirmative:** Leah Pimentel, Hasib Emran, Mark Kelleher, Jason Pellegrini, Amerika Sanchez, Robert Sandoval, Michael Sweet

**Against:** None

**Absent:** Rodrigo Durán, Jayson Johnson, Irene Yee Riley, Rosie Williams.

4. **ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES** (*Discussion Item*)

Presentation to the Commission by the department's acting director, with time for questions from the Commissioners:

- Controller's Office audit update
- Discussion of HRC staff top priorities
- Department grants update

**Presenter: Mawuli Tugbenyoh, Acting Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights**

**Commission**

**Public Comment**

**Acting Director Tugbenyoh:** The Controller's Office audit of the Dream Keeper Initiative (DKI) focuses on department spending, policies, and procedures. The Human Rights Commission is holding a series of community listening sessions, one at the Hamilton Rec center on October ??, 2024, one at the Southeast Community Center on October ?? and another is scheduled at the San Francisco Main Library on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon. The department's primary goal is to unfreeze DKI funds, though a timeline remains undetermined. During the October 17 presentation to the Board of Supervisors Government Audit and Oversight Committee, grantees and constituents testified to the ongoing impact of frozen funds on nonprofit operations, in turn hurting people they directly serve. The Human Rights Commission is collaborating with various city agencies to improve processes, focusing particularly on the grant portfolios under the Human Rights Commission, Dream Keeper Initiative's Cultural Wealth and Brighter Futures.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment on this item.

**Commissioner Comment**

**Commissioner Michael Sweet** asked if the department will be able to officially report progress by the end of the calendar year. He also asked for the city attorney to present, focusing on the role of the commission over the grant process and department moving forward.

**Deputy City Attorney Sarah Fabian** offered to meet with the Chair and a few commissioners to plan and focus the presentation on commission priorities. Chair Pimentel agreed and asked the department to schedule that meeting.

5. **CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION UPDATE** (*Discussion Item*)

This is time for the Civil Rights Division to present brief updates on division activities and initiatives.

**Presenter: Stevon Cook, Director, Civil Rights Division, San Francisco Human Rights**

**Commission**

**Public Comment**

**Director Stevon Cook:** The Civil Rights Division provided updates on their activities, emphasizing their three core pillars: investigation, education, and legislation. The division's proactive approach to mediation aims to reduce discrimination citywide. The CRD held a community symposium on housing discrimination in September, presenters included groups throughout the Bay Area and from Sacramento. Topics were informed by the CRD team case work. Some recommendations on how to more effectively connect with community include enhancing support for community organizations through capacity-building and leadership training.

Jude Diebold represented the first Fair Chance Ordinance case mediated through the department. Findings were in favor of a person who was discriminated against in their housing because they had been previously incarcerated.

### **Commissioner Comment**

**Chair Leah Pimentel** asked how people hear about the Civil Rights Division and protections under the law. She also asked how their information was captured and how folks are referred to non profits funded by the City and County of San Francisco.

**Commissioner Robert Sandoval** asked how the commissioners can promote and highlight the services the Civil Rights Division mediators offer, helping folks access housing, rights to service animals.

**Commissioner Jason Pellegrini** asked if folks can contact 311 to connect with investigators and file complaints. Commissioner Pellegrini referred three people to the Civil Rights Division to file a complaint.

**Deputy City Attorney Sarah Fabian** will work with the department and 311 to coordinate.

**Commissioner Amerika Sanchez** asked how the department follows up on public comment made during the Human Rights Commission meeting, specifically the Potrero Hill housing issues brought to the Commission on September 5, 2024.

**Vice Chair Hasib Emran** talked about complaints related to public housing, elevators that don't work, mold, etc. Asked how referrals are made to other departments and non-profit organizations supporting housing access. Asked if investigators work with the Department of Building Inspection and how often investigators visited different housing sites.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment on this item.

**6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE**  
*(Discussion and Action Item)*

Commissioners discuss and determine items for their next regular meeting agenda, scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024.

**Public Comment**

**Commissioner Comment**

**Commissioner Michael Sweet** asked for a report from the City Attorney and an update on their investigation into the department activities.

**Commissioner Amerika Sanchez** asked if there is an opportunity for part of the meeting to be held in closed session so the commissioners can be briefed on consistent messaging.

**Deputy City Attorney Sarah Fabian** will look into the topics to see if they fall into the exceptions.

**Commissioner Mark Kelleher** asked if there will be a report from the listening sessions, findings and recommendations? Asked if commissioners will be involved in creating policy to respond to questions, reviewing grants, accountability and public availability of awarded applications. Has heard that the grantees need more support with recordkeeping, following policies and procedures, expanding technical assistance support, capacity building and leadership development and training.

**Interim Director Tugbenyoh** responded that the department is developing responses to specific questions from the listening sessions in writing and will publish. Review processes for RFP's will be recommended via a city services auditor report. Will recommend that the Controller's office reach out to the Commission for support and advice.

Capacity building and technical assistance is something that needs to be improved and expanded, something that has been brought up during listening sessions and more broadly.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment on this item.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Vice Chair Emran** closed the meeting in honor of the gentleman who was struck by a car and killed at Parnassus, the 28<sup>th</sup> car crash death in 2024.

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Michael Sweet. 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Robert Sandoval.

Meeting was adjourned by acclimation at 5:53pm.