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# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

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

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

**January 12, 2023 5:00 PM**

#### **ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS**

Karen Clopton, Chairperson  
Joseph Sweiss, Vice-Chairperson  
Vanessa R. Aquino, Commissioner  
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner  
Jason Pellegrini, Commissioner  
Leah Pimentel, Commissioner  
Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner  
Ann Champion Shaw, 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)

**Meeting was called to order at 5:08pm.**

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement – **Rev. Anne Champion Shaw.**

**1. 0:07 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Present:** Karen Clopton, Joseph Sweiss, Jason Pellegrini, Irene Yee Riley, Ann Champion Shaw, Michael Sweet, Vanessa R. Aquino, Leah Pimentel (Remote)

**Absent:** Mark Kelleher

Meeting was called to order with 8 Commissioners present.

Chair Clopton offered words acknowledging the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration and noted the value of Dr. Kings life and legacy. She commented on the fact that in his final days, his embrace by the general population was greatly limited as he was a man of vision and chose to do what was right rather than what was popular. We benefit every day from his courage and the life he chose to lead.

Secretary McKnight noted item 4, Elections, needed to be moved up in compliance with the Human Rights Commission By-Laws; Election of 2023 Chair and Vice Chair is now item 3, Adoption of the December 8, 2022 Minutes is now item 4. Additionally, item 5, Consent Calendar, has been removed from the agenda.

**2. 6:02 FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(E) (Action Item)**

The Commission will discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution setting forth findings necessary to authorize the Commission to hold meetings remotely under the modified Brown Act provisions in Assembly Bill 361

**Presentation:** John McKnight, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**Public Comment**

Motion to allow teleconferenced meetings under California government code section 54953(e).  
1st Commissioner Sweet, 2nd Vice Chair Sweiss.

**Motion carried by acclamation:** Vanessa R. Aquino, Ann Champion Shaw, Karen Clopton, Jason Pellegrini, Leah Pimentel, Irene Yee Riley, Michael Sweet, Joseph Sweiss

**Absent:** Mark Kelleher

Chair Clopton: Please note that the City Attorney's office has informed us that The Governor's emergency proclamation and the Mayor's emergency orders regarding public meetings will terminate on February 28. HRC Commissioners will no longer be able to attend remotely if they're sick or have been exposed to COVID, and remote public comment will no longer be legally required except for people who request a reasonable accommodation.

I want all here and listening remotely to know, The Human Rights Commission will continue with Hybrid meetings and the public will be welcome to attend and provide public comment remotely.

**3. 8:51 ELECTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON SERVING DURING THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR (Action Item)**

San Francisco Human Rights Commission bylaws, Article III, Section 2, require the Human Rights Commission to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson during the first meeting of each calendar year who will serve a one-year term.

**Public Comment**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**NOMINATIONS**

**2023 Commission Chair:** Commissioner Riley nominated Karen Clopton to serve as 2023 Chair of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Commissioner Pimentel seconded the nomination.

**Affirmative:** Joseph Sweiss, Vanessa R. Aquino, Ann Champion Shaw, Jason Pellegrini, Michael Sweet, Irene Yee Riley, Leah Pimentel, and Karen Clopton

**Against:** None

**Absent:** Mark Kelleher

**2023 Commission Vice Chair:** Commissioner Pellegrini nominated Rev. Ann Champion Shaw to serve as 2023 Vice Chair of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Commissioner Riley seconded the nomination.

**Affirmative:** Karen Clopton, Joseph Sweiss, Vanessa R. Aquino, Leah Pimentel, Jason Pellegrini, Michael Sweet, Irene Yee Riley, and Ann Champion Shaw

**Against:** None

**Absent:** Mark Kelleher

Chair Clopton thanked Commission for re-election and the confidence they have shown in her. Promised timely agenda distribution ,at least a week in advance, that minutes will reflect Robert’s Rules, and that the voices of the Commissioners will be heard. Additionally, she thanked pat-Vice Chair Sweiss for his dedication over last two years.

Past Vice Chair Sweiss thanked the Commissioners and staff for their support and guidance over the years.

**4. 16:28 ADOPTION OF THE DECEMER 8, 2022 MEETING MINUTES** (*Discussion and Possible Action Item*)

Originally item 3. Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission’s December 8, 2022 meeting.

**Public Comment**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion to adopt December 8, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted: 1st Commissioner Pellegrini, 2nd Commissioner Sweiss. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**5. 18:32 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.

**6. 19:15 GRANT STOCKTON MICKINS III IN MEMORIAM** (*Discussion Item*)

Posthumous recognition of the life of former Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

**Presentation:** Beverly Mickins

**Public Comment**

Chair Clopton offered words of gratitude and recognition of the life of service led by past Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, Grant S. Mickins who passed away Sep 13, 2022.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

Beverly Mickins, daughter of Grant S. Mickins, joined virtually and spoke of the impact her father's life of service had on her and others. She expressed her gratitude to the Commission for taking this time to recognize his life and legacy.

Vie Chair Shaw thanked Beverly for attending.

### **7. 25:32 2023 CALENDAR REVIEW (Discussion Item)**

Presentation on upcoming events the Human Rights Commission is involved with and the 2023 Commission Calendar.

**Presentation:** John McKnight

Public Comment

Secretary McKnight spoke on upcoming events listed below and detailed out the Commission meeting calendar for 2023

- Freedom, Justice, and Beloved Community; A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: Friday January 13 6:00-8:00pm at the Herbst Theater
- Heartbeats, Drumbeats Communities as One : Wednesday February 15 5:00-8:00pm at the SF Public Library Main Branch Koret Room. This is an event celebrating Black History Month and the Lunar New Year.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Day March: Monday January 16 starting at 11am; march begins at the 4<sup>th</sup> St Caltrain station.
- Rabbits on Parade: Celebrating the Year of the rabbit, special art installations are set up around the City (Locations are noted on the website: [Rabbits on Parade](#)) from January 7 through February 5
- Chinese New Year Parade: Saturday February 4 starting in the eve approximately 5:30; parade route travels through Chinatown.
- Commission Meeting Calendar: The following are the 2023 Commission meeting dates starting at 5:00pm in R416 of San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B. Goodlet Place
  - January 26
  - February 9

- February 23
- March 9
- March 23
- April 13
- April 27
- May 11
- May 25
- June 8
- June 22
- July 13
- August 10
- September 14
- September 28
- October 12
- October 26
- November 9
- December 14

Chair Clopton: opened discussion on 2023 annual Commission Retreat. Asked about holding the retreat on a scheduled Commission Day or an “off day” to permit a more “proper off site.” Retreat to focus on what the Commission focus on this year, and input on agendas. Earlier in year the best. This year will be in person.

Commissioner Sweet: Prefers meeting on planned Commission dates; his schedule is built with these dates in mind.

Commissioner Pellegrini: An off site to create a more communal environment for discussion is ideal. Please keep offsite to a weekday.

Commissioner Aquino: Prefer February 9<sup>th</sup>; unavailable for Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. Earlier in day Thursday would be best. Location outside City Hall would be more personal.

Chair Clopton: Suggested either February 23<sup>rd</sup> or March 9; Secretary McKnight will poll Commissioners and identify a date and will ensure HRC staff can support date chosen.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**8. 39:34 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY** (*Discussion Item*)

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

**Public Comment**

**Commissioner Aquino:**

Attended Dogpatch neighborhood association slash Potrero boosters holiday party last month.

**Commissioner Sweet:**

My firm has a fellowship available for first year law students; information was shared with the Human Rights Commission. This is a fellowship, a paid summer associate fellowship for first year law students as part of Fox Rothschild's diversity fellowship program. I will send details to Secretary McKnight and ask he share with the Commission.

Commissioner Pellegrini: Participated as Master of Ceremonies for Supervisor Stephanie's reelection at City Hall on Sunday.

Commissioner Riley: Attended a press conference for the Stand Together SD art Campaign at Self Help for the Elderly. Additionally attended Campaign for Solidarity monthly meeting, and the Reparations meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. This morning attended the Year of the Rabbit stamp unveiling at the Asian Art Museum with members of the HRC staff and community.

Vice Chair Shaw: Monday morning, Jan 16, at the Intercontinental Hotel, I will attend the annual MLK Day Breakfast with Past Leader Congresswoman Pelosi and others, then we will move on to the march starting at 11am.

Chair Clopton: Attended the Free Leonard Peltier demonstration along with the American Indian Movement on the steps of City Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**9. 50:59 ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

Chair Clopton: Adjourn meeting in honor of former Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, Grant Stockton Mickins III

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

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