

**Marin Human Rights Commission — December Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 13, 2022 — 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

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**Call to Order at 7:03PM with quorum**

Present: Stephany Barahona (SB), Gloria Castillo (GC), Sister Joan Hanna (SJH), Curtis Aikens (CA), Jeremy Portje (JP)

**1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

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|---|--------|-------|
| a) Adoption of the drafted Agenda for December 13, 2022 | SJH/SB | m/s/p |
| b) Adoption of drafted Minutes for October 11, 2022     | JP/SB  | m/s/p |

**Public Comment on Minutes**

*Rodrigo Izquierdo –(paraphrased) Issue with minutes. Should not have to provide information to access documents. Please go back to old format.*

*Eva Chrysanthe –(paraphrased) Support Mr. Izquierdo’s comment. Believe there is becoming less transparency in county operations across California.*

**Commissioner Portje:** *Minutes are more detailed and more transparent than they used to be. Understand there may be some confusion while we transfer from one site to the new one and we will look into it.*

**Public Comment on Agenda**

**No public comment**

**2) Commissioner Announcements for Items Not on the Agenda**

**SB:** Attended both the City of SR community forums & forum held by DA Lori Frugoli. Was good to hear what public had to say throughout Marin. Also volunteered at Dia los Muertos even.

**Roger:** Reminder that this is time for announcements and to avoid discussion

**Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

*Open time for public expression. The Commission will take public comment (up to 3 minutes per speaker) on all items not appearing on the agenda during this portion of the regular meeting.*

*Rodrigo Izquierdo – (paraphrased) Canceling the meeting in November is not acceptable especially since BOS had a meeting that day. It was known in advance that it was election day, and an alternate day should have been chosen. What will happen next year? Pick an alternate day in advance and make it a special meeting. Also, who is making the agendas? If it is County of Marin HR, then you are not independent.*

*Eva Chrysanthe – (paraphrased) There was no HRC input on a sheriff item that was passed at BOS meeting today. Appreciate that at least one of you attended. BOS passing items around Sheriff or DA are concerning and creates an inherent conflict of interest. As HRC you have a responsibility to monitor BOS and should be reading their agenda when it comes out and say it is inappropriate when it is on consent when it has not been agendized, There is a pattern of rolling through items on consent when they are not agendized. and this item*

should be on the agenda of the HRC.

**No additional public comment**

## **Regular Business**

*The Commission will hold a discussion on an agenda item, at the end of the discussion, the Chair or Co-Chair will ask for public comment on that particular agenda item. The public will then have up to 2 minutes per speaker to speak on that particular agenda item before any action on the item is taken by the Commission.*

### **3) Introduction of New Commissioners**

No additional New Commissioners

### **4) Election of Officer – Treasurer**

- HRC has annual budget of 13k
  - Waiting for confirmation of what current funds are
- Treasurer responsibilities:
  - Would be coordinated with EEO specialist (who will be interviewed within first few weeks of January)
  - Decision to expend funds would be made by vote, after discussion during a meeting to identify amount and purpose
  - Funds would be used via vendor invoicing or county credit card
  - Treasurer would share responsibility with EEO specialist
  - Treasurer would provide feedback RE: remaining funds and how to spend/allocate funds

#### **Public comment on the Election of Officer - Treasurer (prior to vote)**

*Eva Chrysanthe – (paraphrased) Surprised that you would receive money in amount substantial enough to warrant a treasurer. Spent more time talking about retreat than sheriff items. Alarming that at this stage of where this commission is – taking county money to go on retreat and to use county money when this is a time of hardship for so many people in the county. Believe you should reject the idea of treasurer.*

*Rodrigo Izquierdo– (paraphrased)HRC has not provided annual reports for years. Christine Shaw did it once. What is your projection for next year of what you will need? Why don't you ask for a regular operating budget per year and then have annual report to share?*

**Roger:** Treasurer adds transparency, not reduce it. Would give someone within HRC knowledge of finances, so you would not have to rely solely on EEO person for that knowledge.

SJH nominated for the role of HRC Treasurer

JP/CA

m/s/p

### **5) Changing Start Time of future HRC meetings Presented by Commissioner Aikens**

**CA:** Propose changing the time of HRC meeting to 6-8 instead of 7-9pm

- Thoughts on this:
  - How would it impact the public for those who work, but would like to attend?
  - Belief that strong topics will generate attendance regardless of time

- **GC:** Completing masters of social work program and changing the time would make it really challenging for me to attend.
- **JP:** Want to hear public comment before voting. Believe it is not up to us and want to increase participation and not decrease it.
- **JP:** Agree to table this item until **GC** graduates. Will re-address in June.

**Roger:** We will return in person meetings as of March 1. It is unknown if meetings can be hybrid. I will have more information on this in January.

- **JP:** Can table for a future agenda

**SJH: Roger,** Is there any information about public's participation when meeting is virtual as distinct from in person when people need to go to a particular place at a particular time?

**Roger:** The best way to facilitate public to participate would be better answered by those people you are hoping will attend.

**SJH:** Greatest participation was when we went to different locations within local communities. Consistently had greater attendance when we were outside of civic center office building.

This will be tabled for a future agenda.

**Roger:** Can add it to website as long as there is no discussion amongst yourselves.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Rodrigo Izquierdo – (paraphrased) thank you for letting me speak. Your example should be BOS, who are all in attendance in person, not virtually. If you change the time, you will lose people. Should do more research before changing the time.*

*Eva Chrysanthe – (paraphrased) Would recommend this meeting on a Wednesday or Thursday and would ask the BOS to expand the number of commissioners.*

*Damian – (paraphrased) The reputation of this commission is that nothing was being accomplished - would not gauge the low number of attendees against the public. Prove that you will advocate for the community and then your attendance and numbers will increase. Go to Marin City, the Canal, Novato – not just once, come at least twice. The reputation that precedes you has to change.*

**Adjustment of the start time of the HRC meeting is tabled for future**

### **6) HRC Forums**

**Presented by Commissioners Barahona and Portje**

- Suggest holding quarterly forums to engage the community to gain public feedback
  - Proposed dates: January, March, June, September, December
- What is the process to generate main topic of the forum in advance? Some suggestions:
  - Mental Health
  - DA's Office
  - Housing/Homelessness
- The question is how do find out what topics are important in each community?
  - i.e. in the Canal, it is important to understand the relationship between the Sheriff and ICE
- Discussion around getting the word out into the community, including translation and inclusion
- Question around the ability to provide childcare?

**Roger:** Don't believe we have provided childcare in the past, which is not to say we could not.

- **CA:** Maybe we should not use the word retreat. We don't need to spend money on a location, but we can gather together and spend time to work.
- **JP:** Believe what you're describing is our annual report and planning for the year. – could do an ad hoc that focuses on forums and forum planning  
To do what you're describing could be on next agenda to plan a day to do just that.  
Two things – one is forums and one is game plan for next year
- Suggestion to hold special meeting to plan this as it cannot be discussed until it is agendaized.

**Roger:** Next steps:

Identify locations in the parts of the county you want to go to. Determine venue to ensure it is available. Have previously used free venues – libraries, community centers, etc – both free and accessible.

Once locations are determined, then will need to retain translation service(s) & will have to pay for it.

Next would be setting the agenda - Do you want a guest speaker & do they have enough lead time to attend? If it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month – then it would be a regular meeting, you would just change the location (online, at civic center and the at location where meeting would be held)

Part of the coordination would involve contacting facilities person to ensure doors are unlocked & lights are on etc. especially if using an after-hours location

Forums would be separate from regular meetings, but everything mentioned above would still apply

## **PUBLIC COMMENT on HRC Forums**

*Rodrigo Izquierdo – (paraphrased) Reinventing the wheel. At first you had crowds and this dwindled to zero. Most of you are new except for Nancy Johnson. Suggest you not have it at Pickleweed, have it at a school instead. Talk to me about it.*

*Eva Chrysanthe – (paraphrased) Like the idea of forums and of childcare and the idea of creating a space where children are welcome. Would be a first introduction to politics. Healthy for young children to learn about the issues their parents are facing and could make it more inviting to parents to come.*

**JP:** Will agendaize work day for future.

## **7) District Attorney's Office**

*(ad-hoc committee to investigate racial bias)*

**Presented by Commissioners Portje and Aikens**

- Racial discrepancy in Marin County
- DA office accused of serious allegations
  - HRC will look into the data
  - 237 registered inmates in the county jail → does not match the

Make a motion to create ad hoc committee and look into the numbers then make an advisory to BOS → how to address, aside from the legal aspect of it

**SB:** adding ad hoc committee to go into data would be best way to go

## **PUBLIC COMMENT on DA's Office and creation of ad-hoc committee to investigate racial bias**

*Eva Chrysanthe –(paraphrased) There is limited value in having Frugoli as a guest. PR opportunity for her – better to look at the data instead. She could decline to answer. Better to look at the data and maybe invite another guest who can really break down the research and the data.*

*Rodrigo Izquierdo – (paraphrased) Why didn't any of you zoom into 5pm BOS meeting w/sheriff? Public comment was allowed, and he would have answered them. You missed this opportunity. Suggest tuning into these meetings at 5pm – can put on channel 27 or you can put it on your cell phone and listen so you are informed.*

*Jason Sarris – (paraphrased) Would like for you to ask Frugoli some questions. Did she take the black face image down? That 10 or so people fired over the past year – POC, people that are pregnant, etc. – make it public that 'we want to ask these questions' and put her on the spot.*

### **No additional public comment**

### **Motion – form ad hoc committee to look into these claims**

**SJH/SB**

**m/s/p**

**Roger:** Point of clarification - Can ask for volunteers now for ad hoc committee, but not everyone is here. We can survey everyone and see who wants to be on it. Can send an email.

## **8) Committee Reports**

AB1185 Presented by Commissioner Aikens

- Working group formed about 2 months ago
- Formed 3 subcommittees in working group
  - Drafting group
  - Focus group
    - Getting input from those in the county that have been overpoliced & underserved
      - (2 in Marin City, 2 in Canal, 1-2 in Novato, women/women of color)
  - Outreach group – reaching out to all 5 districts
- Survey that we hope will receive large response to
  - Goal to make survey available via paper, phone, translations to make accessible
  - Survey should be available 12/13 – 12/14 and will take under 10 mins to complete
  - Will post on website, ask to each supervisor to send out newsletter for Outreach

## **PUBLIC COMMENT on AB1185 Committee Report**

*Rodrigo Izquierdo (paraphrased) Public should be able to give you information without going through HR in order for your to remain independent. Complaints should be handled by HRC only, not Human Resources or the county, to maintain the integrity of the complaint process.*

*Eva Chrysanthe– (paraphrased) Complaints that go through the county could potentially be compromised. Anything going through the county is structurally a conflict of interest and the way to overcome that would be to demand of BOS to restructure commissions. Believe people in underserved areas should decide who should represents them on the commission – would establish independence and create a*

*more balanced & representative commission. Also no-one is demanding that DA do their job – demand that the BOS demand that the DA do their job. Lastly – It is suspect that 2 commission members met with Sheriff.*

*Jason Sarris – (paraphrased) Would like to be involved and help with public involvement. Will volunteer to help with flyers and spreading the word. This will take all of us to make a difference and would like to be a part of this.*

*Meg – (paraphrased) Support your looking into DA's office and holding feet to the fire. Would like to point out to Ms. Chrysanthe, the DA is an elected official, and does not report to the BOS.*

## **9) Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:12PM