



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

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701 OCEAN STREET, Rm 510, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2772 FAX: (831) 454-2411 TDD: 711

### LATINO AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

**Wednesday, May 30, 2018 6:00 p.m.**

United Way of Santa Cruz County, 4450 Capitola Road, Suite 106, Capitola, CA 95010

**Present:** Gilberto Reyes (District 1), Martin Vargas Vega (District 2), Patricia Guevara (City of Watsonville), Rebecca Hernandez Rosser (City of Santa Cruz), Diana Alfaro (City of Santa Cruz), Antonia Franco (District 3), Rebecca Garcia (City of Watsonville),

**Excused:** Gloria Nieto (District 5), Brianna del Franco (District 4),

**Unexcused:** None

**Staff:** Britt Harmssen, Esq., EEO Officer

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Meeting was convened at 6:05 pm

#### Roll Call of Commissioners

##### **I. Approval of Minutes**

Approve Minutes of the April 4, 2018 meeting.

**Motion/Second: Alfaro/Garcia Passed unanimously.**

##### **II. Agenda Review** (Additions/Corrections to the Agenda)

None.

##### **III. Oral Communications** by Commissioners or Members of the Public (on items not on the agenda)

None

##### **IV. Affordable Housing Bond**

- a. Alfaro reported public response was mixed at community engagement meetings. A needs assessment will be conducted to better identify concerns and inform allocation of funds by district.
- b. The following four priorities having been established: HUD project preservation, a first-time homebuyer program, an innovation and opportunity program, and a homelessness fund.
- c. Among the terms still to be determined are how many Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) can be created, how much property tax to levy, what the term of the bond will be, and how to best allocate the funds regionally. Additional details expected to be available in late July before the next LAC meeting.
- d. County staff to monitor Board Agenda for Affordable Housing Bond Consideration items.

##### **V. Strategic Plan Update**

Staff provided overview of updates to the Strategic Plan.

##### **VI. Community Events: Co-sponsorships**

Garcia reported that commissioners participated in both the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Watsonville Time Capsule and the Cesar Chavez Awards.

## VII. Commissioner Reports

### a. **District 1:**

- i. Reyes reported on two recent Sheriff's Department community meetings regarding local gang activity, graffiti, vandalism and increased crime.
- ii. Reyes reported on the Live Oak Cradle to Career Initiative. The program addresses unique needs of Live Oak families, including improving opportunities for education, training for teachers, opportunities for parent engagement, healthy breakfasts for children, affordable housing, better jobs, clear pathways to citizenship and more access to scholarships and career programs.

### b. **District 2:**

- i. Vargas Vega reported on his work with the Adobe Initiative Program to enhance civic engagement with technology. He is currently engaged in projects related to the citizenship and development of the 2020 Census.
- ii. Vargas Vega reported that he will be attending the local Tech Rising event at the end of May.
- iii. Vargas Vega will review the Commission's website. County staff will email Vargas Vega a link to the Manufactured and Mobile Home Commission website.

### c. **District 3:**

- i. Franco asked subcommittees to convene in July to review action items and gain momentum on the project.
- ii. Alfaro reports that the Affordable Housing Bond community meeting in Santa Cruz was well-attended by a mix of attendees and viewpoints. Visual aids and handouts were provided to make the information accessible.
- iii. Reyes and Hernandez Rosser discussed the recent Senderos Oaxacan Cultural Festival held at San Lorenzo Park. The event has grown rapidly and attracted major sponsors this year. This created some concern that the wider audience might dilute participation of the community the event intends to serve.
- iv. Commissioners to meet with City Managers and elected officials in December/January to discuss the Latino Affairs Commission Strategic Action Plan before presenting an update to the Board of Supervisors.

### d. **District 4:** No report.

### e. **District 5:** No report.

### f. **City of Santa Cruz:**

- i. Hernandez Rosser invited commissioners to graduation ceremonies next month on the UCSC campus. Eleven students will be graduating from the American Indian program and 400 from the Chicano/Latino program.
- ii. Hernandez Rosser reports that there is some opposition to a proposal to build student housing on the meadow of the UCSC despite a current shortage of available housing and an increase in homeless students.
- iii. Alfaro reports that City events the first weekend of June include The Ebb and Flow Festival and the Santa Cruz 2018 Pride Parade.
- iv. Alfaro reports that the City of Santa Cruz recently partnered with Social Bicycles to launch a city-wide JUMP E-bike sharing program this year.
- v. Alfaro reports that two hundred people attended the May 15<sup>th</sup> City of Santa Cruz Housing Blueprint Subcommittee meeting to be briefed on plans for the downtown area, transportation issues, inclusionary housing and community engagement.
- vi. The Veterans and the Affordable Housing Act State Bond is on the November Ballot. Garcia and Alfaro recommend that the Commission support the Veterans and Affordable Housing Act.

### g. **City of Watsonville:**

- i. Garcia reports that a meeting will be held May 31 in Watsonville to review the inclusionary housing program.

- ii. Garcia reports that a Salinas regional meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2018 regarding the 2020 Census.
- iii. Guevara reports that a recent Salinas Housing Study for Farmworkers in the Pajaro Valley indicated that while the farming industry brings billions of dollars into both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties annually, families of farmworkers continue to live in extremely congested and substandard housing conditions.
- iv. Guevara reports that the Affordable Housing Bond meeting in Watsonville was well-attended and most attendees were in support of the bond.
- v. Guevara visited with families of farmworkers to address housing issues and reports that families are afraid to complain to landlords about poor living conditions. There is an increase in homelessness, and agricultural workers report being impacted adversely by climate change.
- vi. A meeting in early May addressed the results of an impact study which will become available to the public later this year. County staff will distribute report to Commission when available.

**VIII. Staff Report**

Update on the County Equal Opportunity Employment Plan development.

**IX. Hispanic Heritage Month Review**

- a. Commissioners discussed this year’s Art Wall theme, “Art as Resistance” and provided logistics for the installation. Photographs of the work of Watsonville muralist Guillermo Aranda, work from selected new artists, and featured art programs from local High School and Colleges may be displayed.
- b. Pending confirmation/coordination with First Friday events, installation to be hung the last week of August for an unveiling on Friday, September 7, 2018, and to be available for viewing the month of September.

**X. Adjournment: 7:45 pm**

**Submitted: Kaite McGrew, Commissions Coordinator**

The next Latino Affairs Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the United Way of Santa Cruz County (4450 Capitola Road, Suite 106, Capitola, CA).

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. The meeting location is an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact the Personnel Department at 454-2772 (TDD 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

Commissioners

<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 2</u>	<u>District 3</u>	<u>District 4</u>	<u>District 5</u>
Gilberto Reyes	Martin Vargas Vega	Antonia O. Franco	Brianna del Franco	Gloria Nieto

City of Santa Cruz

Diana Alfaro and Rebecca Hernandez Rosser

City of Watsonville

Rebecca Garcia and Patricia Guevara