



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.scclatinoaffairs.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, October 5, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Yadira Flores-Martinez (*1st District*), Gregory Peinado (*2nd District*), Fe Silva-Robles (*3rd District*), Cesar De Santos (*4th District*), Leo Gomez (*Chair, 5th District*), Rebecca Hernandez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Rebecca Garcia (*City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: Pablo Velasquez (*City of Santa Cruz*)

ABSENT: Sylvia Mendez (*Vice Chair, City of Watsonville*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*), Jenny Van Natta (*Spanish Language Interpreter*)

GUESTS: Rita Sanchez (*Senior Administrative Analyst*), Mitsuno Baurmeister (*County EEO Officer*), and 1 member of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:08 PM.

2. Approve August 3, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion/Second: Garcia/Peinado

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

De Santos arrived.

4. New Business/Action Items

4.1. CAO Initiatives Update

Sanchez updated the Commission on two County Administrative Office (CAO) initiatives including the FY 2023-2025 Operational Plan process and the "A Santa Cruz Like Me" (ASCLM) project which works towards achieving government bodies that reflect the diversity of the community they represent. Commission feedback on the Operational objectives centered on affordable housing and increasing Latino representation in positions of authority, particularly in law enforcement. ASCLM project feedback focused on the appointment process, outreach efforts, and encouraging youth participation. Commissioners are encouraged to complete a follow-up survey to offer any additional feedback on these initiatives.

Flores-Martinez arrived.

4.2. County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Employee Survey Report

Baurmeister shared the results of the survey, summarizing key findings, opportunities for improvement and next steps. Commission feedback centered on revising hiring and promotional procedures to improve equitable representation and requesting regular updates on implementation. The Commission also requested a presentation on workforce utilization data disaggregated by department and job classification.

4.3. Consider Adopting the AB-361 Statement of Findings Allowing Remote Meetings

Motion to approve statement of findings authorizing the Commission to hold their next meeting remotely under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 if allowed.

Motion/Second: Garcia/Hernandez

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Commissioner Reports

5.1. District 1 Report (Flores-Martinez):

Flores-Martinez encouraged Commissioners to attend a *Corazon de Mujer* event at LEO's Haven. County Park Friends received grant funding to sponsor recreational events for three years. A recent ruling will allow private residents to block public access to the Rio Del Mar coastal access walkway is concerning.

5.2. District 2 Report (Peinado):

Peinado invited Commissioners to attend the upcoming Seacliff Street Fair in Seacliff Village featuring food, music, crafts, and magic. A Trunk-or-Treat (safe alternative to trick-or-treating) event will be held at the County Fairgrounds on October 28th.

5.3. District 3 Report (Silva-Robles):

Silva-Robles reported that many South County families are concerned about recent crimes in the Santa Cruz area. Efforts are being made to bring awareness to safer alternatives to trick-or-treating and the potential dangers in attending other local events.

5.4. District 4 Report (De Santos):

Supervisor Caput and Sheriff Hart presented certificates to Sheriff's Office employees and the Community Action Board for a very successful National Night Out event in September. More than 20 businesses and community organizations spoke to the community bringing awareness to available services. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat with candy, games, decorated trunks, food vendors etc. at the Sheriff's office parking lot on Soquel.

5.5. District 5 Report (Gomez): No Report

5.6. Santa Cruz City Report (Hernandez):

The Research Center for the Americas will have an upcoming celebration at the Museum of Art and History to mark their official name change to *The Delores Huerta Research Center for the Americas*. Santa Cruz City will host a Day of the Dead celebration at the Evergreen Cemetery.

5.7. Santa Cruz City Report (Velasquez): No Report

5.8. Watsonville City Report (Mendez): No Report

5.9. Watsonville City Report (Garcia):

Garcia expressed disappointment that the Commission did not mark Hispanic Heritage Month. Commissioners are invited to attend a celebration of Watsonville Hospital's becoming a community hospital. Corralitos and Watsonville Open Studios events will feature 16 artists to represent South County, of whom only three are Latinos.

6. Staff Report:

Staff reported that the EEO/CC Plan is being updated with Q3 2022 data and will be published by year-end barring any unforeseen barriers. Commissioners are encouraged to provide brief bio paragraphs and photographs for the Commission's membership page.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*