



# Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

TIME: 6:00PM

LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

PRESENT: Yadira Flores-Martinez (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Oscar Sanchez (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Kassandra Flores (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Cesar De Santos (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Bibianna Rocha (*City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: Leo Gomez (*5<sup>th</sup> District*), Rebecca Hernandez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Micaela Lopez (*City of Watsonville*)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Lun Wang (*Health Equity Officer*), and 7 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:11 PM.

2. Approve December 4, 2024 Minutes

**Motion to approve minutes as written.**

Motion/Second: Flores-Martinez/Rocha

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Comment

4. New Business/Action Items

4.1. Santa Cruz County Health Equity Report

Wang shared key data and health care outcome determinants for Santa Cruz County, as well as data comparing South County to the rest of the County. Commission reviewed and discussed advocacy opportunities as well as new Federal legislation impacts on local health and safety in the Latino community. The Commission requested that they be notified of advocacy opportunities to support County health equity efforts early so that they can more effectively fulfill their duty as an advisory body to the Board. Wang agreed to return periodically to update the Commission.

4.2. Immigration Advocacy for the New Federal Administration

Commission reviewed and discussed the County's recent resolution regarding their recommitment to being a Sanctuary County. Commissioners and members of the public shared their experiences navigating the new circumstances, particularly with regard to community organizing and available resources. Proposed advocacy objectives included County funding for legal representation, reaffirming Santa Cruz City Council's commitment to being a sanctuary city, County workforce training on immigration issues, rights and responsibilities, additional information on victim support resources, encouraging new District Supervisors to communicate their support for the resolution now and coordinated communications to healthcare providers (public and private), among others.

**Motion to establish an ad hoc subcommittee to research and draft an advocacy letter to the Board of Supervisors**

Motion/Second: Sanchez/Rocha

**Motion passed unanimously**

4.3. 2025 Hispanic Heritage Art Wall Exhibit Planning Update

Staff reported that Community Action Board (CAB) supports this concept enthusiastically and has identified a staff contact to act as a resource to the ad hoc subcommittee. Commission will establish the subcommittee at the April meeting.

5. Commissioner Reports

5.1. District 1 Report (Flores-Martinez):

Flores-Martinez reported a drop in attendance at County Park Friends events because of recent immigration legislation. She attended a recent rally organized by Harbor High School and the Young Outdoor Leaders group.

5.2. District 2 Report (Sanchez):

Sanchez encouraged Commissioners to practice self-care during these stressful times and reminded them that Officer elections will take place at the April meeting.

5.3. District 3 Report (Flores)

Flores shared information about "Your Allied Rapid Response" (YARR), a community-based organization focused on providing immediate support and documentation when individuals encounter Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, essentially acting as a rapid response team to assist those potentially at risk during ICE interactions; they train volunteers in legal observation and non-violent direct action to respond to calls on their hotline when ICE activity is witnessed.

5.4. District 4 Report (De Santos)

De Santos reported on CAB's recent immigration event held at Watsonville High School in December. The event was informative and well-attended. He also attended the Harbor High protest.

5.5. District 5 Report (Gomez): No Report

5.6. Santa Cruz City Report (Hernandez): No Report

5.7. Watsonville City Report (Lopez/Rocha):

Rocha shared details about her efforts to provide resources and information to immigrants visiting the County building in Watsonville and reported attending the Watsonville protest which was peaceful and uneventful.

6. Staff Report:

Staff reported the need for Commissioners receiving stipends to register with the new payment management system and confirmed having posted immigration resources and information on the Commission's website.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*