



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

TIME: 6:00PM

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

PRESENT: Yadira Flores-Martinez (*1st District*), Kassandra Flores (*3rd District*), Cesar De Santos (*4th District*), Jaime Longoria (*5th District*), Emmanuel Nevarez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Bibianna Rocha (*City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: Micaela Lopez (*City of Watsonville*)

ABSENT: Oscar Sanchez (*2nd District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Chris Clark (*Sheriff-Coroner*), Sven Stafford (*CEO Principal Administrative Analyst*) and 18 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:00 PM.

Commission welcomed new District 5 Commissioner Jaime Longoria.

2. Moment of Silence to Recognize the Many Individuals Previously Detained in Florida Whose Current Status Remains Unaccounted for in Publicly Accessible Records

3. Approve August 6, 2025 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Nevarez/Flores-Martinez

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

5. New Business/Action Items

5.1. Sheriff's Department Update

5.1.1. County Law Enforcement Involvement with Immigration Enforcement

Sheriff Clark provided an overview of County Law Enforcement's strategies and policies related to immigration enforcement. The Sheriff's Office does not participate in immigration enforcement, does not share information for that purpose, and has declined immigration-related funding due to concerns about community trust and public safety. Local law enforcement lacks jurisdiction over federal agents acting within the scope of their duties due to the supremacy clause therefore local action would be limited to rare, clear-cut violations of state law such as entering private healthcare facilities, for example. Publicizing imminent ICE activity could constitute obstruction of justice. Sheriff's deputies, if present, would be there simply to keep the peace if requested as they cannot decline to respond when public safety is at risk. The County does not operate its own FLOCK system, though the Sheriff's Office may access shared law enforcement databases that contain

FLOCK data in addition to other data. He emphasized the importance of safeguards and accountability and stated that all use of technology is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with County Counsel where appropriate. The Commission expressed concern that no official records of events would be available to them without intervention from local law enforcement and access to their bodycam videos.

- 5.1.2. Latino Representation in Sergeant and Special Assignments Update
Item pended to a later meeting for time.

5.2. Consider Advocating for a County Ordinance Further Addressing Community Concerns Related to Immigration Enforcement

Commission reviewed their November 17, 2025 advocacy letter to the Board outlining community concerns related to immigration enforcement and discussed the potential ramifications establishing an ordinance could cause. The Commission expressed concerns about potential backlash and determined to advocate for internal policies changes at this time.

Motion to establish an ad hoc subcommittee to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors proposing potential solutions to the concerns raised in the Commission's prior letter.

Motion/Second: Nevarez/De Santos

Ayes: Flores-Martinez, De Santos, Longoria, Nevarez, and Rocha

Nays: None

Abstentions: Flores

Motion passed.

Chair appointed Nevarez, Rocha, De Santos, and Flores to the subcommittee.

5.3. County Strategic Planning Discussion –

Stafford summarized the County's outreach efforts to help identify priorities for the County's Strategic Plan. The Commission reviewed the County Strategic Plan focus areas and discussed priorities specifically impacting the Latino community. Priorities included access to food services for individuals unable to provide a home address; protections for immigrants; housing services; Latino representation in law enforcement, increased transparency (data, progress, service improvements, etc.); milestone credits for inmates, law enforcement assisted diversion, funding for treatment options; and investigating potential County divestment from companies with known human rights violations.

5.4. Consider 2024-2025 Latino Affairs Commission Biennial Report

Commission reviewed the 2024-2025 Latino Affairs Commission Biennial Report and made the several small changes to fine tune the language in the goals and recommendations sections.

Motion to approve and adopt the 2024-2025 Latino Affairs Commission Biennial Report as amended.

Motion/Second: Rocha/ Flores

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Commissioner Reports: Pended

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*