



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, April 1, 2026

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*), Aracely Contreras (*City of Santa Cruz*), Bibianna Rocha (*City of Watsonville*), Micaela Lopez (*City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: Oscar Sanchez (*2nd District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Sheriff Chris Clark (*County Sheriff*), and 4 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:02 PM.

Commission welcomed new Santa Cruz City Commissioner Aracely Contreras.

2. Approve February 4, 2026 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Flores/Nevarez

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

4. New Business/Continuing Business/Action Items

4.1. Latino Representation in Sergeant and Special Teams Assignments Update

Sheriff Clark provided an overview of the Sheriff's Office efforts to increase diversity and inclusivity in leadership and promotional opportunities. He highlighted significant increases in Latino representation in leadership roles (e.g., 60% of Detectives, 50% of Correctional Sergeants, and 58% of Supervising Correctional Officers). Flores Martinez arrived. New initiatives to support Latino advancement include standardizing and improving transparency in promotional and special assignment processes, developing a robust mentorship program, and improving the transparency of the application process for Special Teams to include structured interviews, and interview feedback to support career advancement. Commissioners discussed applicant demographics, hiring panel composition, and potential barriers within promotional processes. Sheriff Clark also shared information about the department's efforts to address workplace culture and accountability, including training related to professionalism, inclusivity, and prevention of harassment and bias. Staff suggested that a future presentation include updated demographic data and progress on implementation of these initiatives.

Motion to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Draft an Advocacy Letter to the Board of Supervisors for Consideration by the Commission

Motion/Second: Nevarez/Lopez

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair appointed De Santos, Nevarez, Rocha, and Flores-Martinez

4.2. Officer Elections

Motion to elect Flores as Commission Chair and Nevarez as Vice Chair.

Motion/Second: Rocha/Lopez

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3. SCC Chapter 10.07 *Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement Prohibited*

Staff shared information about SHIELD activities including the new ordinance SCCC Chapter 10.07 prohibiting use of County property by Federal Immigration officials. Commission discussed establishing an ad hoc subcommittee to consider recommendations to the Board on ideas for enforcement of the ordinance, among other immigration advocacy duties.

Motion to establish an Ad Hoc Immigration Advocacy Subcommittee

Motion/Second: Longoria/Nevarez

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair appointed Nevarez, Lopez, Longoria, and Flores.

4.4. Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Hispanic Heritage Month Subcommittee

Motion to establish an Ad Hoc Hispanic Heritage Month Subcommittee

Motion/Second: Lopez/Longoria

Motion passed unanimously

Chair appointed Flores, Longoria, Contreras and De Santos.

4.5. Consider 2027 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve and adopt the 2027 Meeting Schedule

Motion/Second: Flores/Nevarez

Motion passed unanimously

5. Commissioner Reports:

5.1. District 1 (*Flores-Martinez*)

Flores-Martinez encouraged Commissioners to attend a community input meeting at the new Valle de Pajaro County Park on May 2nd.

5.2. District 2 (*Sanchez*) – No Report

5.3. District 3 (*Flores*)

Flores encouraged Commissioners to provide public comment on the County's proposed 3-Year Behavioral Health Services Plan.

5.4. District 4 (*De Santos*) – No Report

5.5. District 5 (*Longoria*) – No Report

5.6. Santa Cruz City (*Nevarez, Contreras*)

Nevarez shared that the Capitola FLOCK contract ended but may be renewed. Contreras shared information about her background and interests.

5.7. Watsonville City (*Lopez, Rocha*) – No Report

6. Staff Report: No Report

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*