



# Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Gilberto Reyes (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Leo Gomez (*5<sup>th</sup> District*), Diana Alfaro (*City of Santa Cruz*), Rebecca Hernandez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Rebecca Garcia (*City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: Abbygale Gonzalez (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Christina Granados (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Patricia Guevara (*City of Watsonville*)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*), Rita Sanchez (*County Administrative Office Liaison*)

GUESTS: Ivan Carmona (*Watsonville City Associate Planner*), Suzi Merriam (*Watsonville City Community Development Director*), Maria Elena de la Garza (*Community Action Board Executive Director*), Paulina Moreno (*Director of Special Projects*)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:12 PM.

2. Approve October 7, 2020 Minutes

Minutes amended to clarify an event name.

**Motion to approve minutes as amended**

Motion/Second: Garcia/Alfaro

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items

4.1. Watsonville City Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance

Carmona summarized amendments to the Watsonville City's Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance. State permitting requirements were revised between 2017-2020 to allow more flexibility to create more affordable housing stock. Amendments to Watsonville's Municipal Code further extend that flexibility including changes to use standards, design standards, fire sprinkler standards, parking standards, non-profit development restrictions, impact fee requirements, utility connection requirements, and code enforcement. Certain restrictions remain, disallowing; construction on vacant parcels, use as short-term vacation rentals and separate sales unless by a non-profit developer. Additionally, owner occupancy is required for JADUs. Additional details are available on the Watsonville City website.

4.2. Community Action Board (CAB) Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI)

De la Garza and Moreno summarized CAB's participation in the State-funded DRAI program which seeks to meet the needs of immigrants who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but are ineligible for other forms of assistance. CAB handled local outreach and disbursement efforts from intake through documentation, approval and disbursement to 911 individuals in Santa Cruz County. Ninety-seven percent of those who applied had experienced a reduction or elimination of work hours. Day-worker match requests dropped from 350 per day to zero. CAB commends the County Board of Supervisors for their pro-immigrant video outreach and recent proclamation

declaring racism a public health issue and asked the Commission to advocate for immigrant representation in County anti-racism efforts. The Community Action Board is planning an immigrant forum in 2021.

5. Ongoing Business:

5.1. Pajaro Valley COVID-19 Outreach Task Force Update

Garcia reported that she and Guevara represented the Commission at one meeting each on behalf of Granados. The Task Force completed a Univision commercial and is considering posting banners or messaging at local parks, on Main Street and at bakeries and laundromats. COVID-related data has been collected but has not been disaggregated by employment, so it's not yet possible to identify the impact specifically on farmworkers. Two of the three thresholds the County needs to meet in order to return to the red tier have been met. The third relates to number of cases per day. There is community discussion about displaying the Virgin de Guadalupe with a mask during the upcoming march in her honor.

6. Commissioner Reports

6.1. District 1 Report (Reyes): Distance learning is ongoing. Though most needed technology has been supplied, many parents are unable to assist their children using it. Cabrillo will hold a tribute to District Supervisor John Leopold for his twelve years of service to District 1.

6.2. District 2 Report (Gonzalez): No Report

6.3. District 3 Report: Seat Vacant

6.4. District 4 Report (Granados): No Report

6.5. District 5 Report (Gomez): Many District 5 residents remain displaced by the fires. Many homes remain uninhabitable because of water damage and melted plastic water pipes despite cleanup efforts. Schools remain closed and many Latino families have no internet access. PG&E blackouts are ongoing, and they are cutting many of the remaining trees.

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

6.7. Santa Cruz City Report (Alfaro):

Debris flows are anticipated for the rainy season. The Coral Street housing development will provide housing for 120 homeless residents. December events include a Santa Cruz Makers Market and a holiday light display at the fairgrounds. The future of housing was discussed at the Monterey Economic Partnership's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual State of the Region Conference .

6.8. Watsonville City Report (Garcia):

Garcia reported that Watsonville is holding a Facebook live State of the City Q&A event on December 3, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

6.9. Watsonville City Report (Guevara): No Report

7. Staff Report:

Current numbers reflect 2,753 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the Latino community, representing 58.62% of known cases in Santa Cruz County. The County EEO/CC Plan should be ready for review in January 2021.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Submitted: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*