



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, February 2, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Yadira Flores-Martinez (1st District), Fe Silva-Robles (3rd District), Christina Granados (4th District), Leo Gomez (5th District), Rebecca Garcia (City of Watsonville), Sylvia Mendez (City of Watsonville)

EXCUSED: Rebecca Hernandez (City of Santa Cruz)

ABSENT: None

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

GUESTS: 1 member of the public was present

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:07 PM.

Commission welcomed Commissioner Yadira Flores-Martinez representing District 1.

2. Approve December 1, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes

Motion/Second: Gomez/Mendez

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

4. New Business/Action Items

4.1. 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

Motion/Second: Garcia/Mendez

Motion passed unanimously.

4.2. Consider 2022 Strategic Action Plan

Commission reviewed the 2022 Strategic Action Plan, amended to include monitoring community partner implementation of social equity efforts, including Watsonville City's social equity policing efforts and monitoring efforts to address homelessness and affordable housing in the South County Latinx population.

Motion to Approve the 2022 Strategic Action Plan as amended

Motion/Second: Mendez/Garcia

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Commissioner Reports

5.1. District 1 Report (Flores-Martinez):

Flores-Martinez provided background information including her family, education, and work in the community.

5.2. District 2 Report (Seat Vacant): No Report

5.3. District 3 Report (Silva-Robles):

Silva-Robles expressed her gratitude for the addition of translation services to Commission meetings and shared information about events in her district.

5.4. District 4 Report (Granados):

Granados reported that the Commission's Instagram following has increased. Watsonville will host their annual film festival in March. Granados formally acknowledged Black History Month.

5.5. District 5 Report (Gomez): No Report

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

5.7. Watsonville City Report (Garcia):

Garcia reported that Watsonville is considering an ordinance to electrify the city and retrofit residential housing pending availability of funding to ensure that moderate and low-income families can afford to retrofit as well and do not experience increased natural gas prices as other households begin using less natural gas. Watsonville will now be part of the 18th Congressional District. Garcia requested that County Director of Housing for Health Dr. Robert Ratner present to the Commission on the County's efforts to address homelessness.

5.8. Watsonville City Report (Mendez):

Mendez reported that Watsonville Hospital is going through bankruptcy and may be converted to a District Hospital. The matter is being considered by the State legislature, and a judge will determine who can purchase the hospital, whether an NPO or a private party. The city will consider contributing to the \$70M needed to fund a district hospital.

6. Staff Report:

Staff met with County Counsel to discuss options to allow the Commission to conduct fundraising efforts and apply for and accept grant funding. County Counsel advised that the Commission could add language to their bylaws authorizing these activities and the Board could ratify that authorization if they approve the amended bylaws. Staff will report back on whether Personnel is willing to designate funds for the Commission in their budget and if so, how much. The EEO/CC Plan data has been updated and we anticipate publication by close of Q1 2022.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*