



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.scclatinoaffairs.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, August 3, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Gregory Peinado (*2nd District*), Fe Silva-Robles (*3rd District*), Cesar De Santos (*4th District*), Leo Gomez (*Chair, 5th District*), Rebecca Hernandez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Pablo Velasquez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Rebecca Garcia (*City of Watsonville*) Sylvia Mendez (*Vice Chair, City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: Yadira Flores-Martinez (*1st District*)

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

GUESTS: Dr. Robert Ratner (*Director of Housing*) and 1 member of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:05 PM.

Commission welcomed new Santa Cruz City Commissioner Pablo Velasquez.

2. Approve June 1, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion/Second: Peinado/De Santos

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items

4.1. County Housing Support Overview

Ratner provided an overview of the County's efforts to address the housing crisis in Santa Cruz County. The 2022 "Point in Time" data indicates that 39% of those experiencing homelessness are Hispanic/Latinx as compared to 61% Non-Hispanic/Latinx. However, the Santa Cruz County "Homeless Student (K-12) data indicates the vast majority of homeless students are Hispanic or Latino. The difference may be due, in part, to the differing definitions of homelessness each survey used. The County has made substantial investments in South County efforts to address homelessness including various Community Action Board programs, South County Housing Collaborative, Salvation Army Shelter, and Healing the Streets among others. Commission discussed possible affordable housing alternatives being considered.

Mendez left the meeting.

4.2. Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee

Motion to establish an ad hoc Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee

Motion/Second: Hernandez/De Santos

Motion passed unanimously.

Molina appointed Hernandez, De Santos and Flores-Martinez to the Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee.

4.3. Consider Adopting the AB-361 Statement of Findings Allowing Remote Meetings

Staff reported on the availability of tech and venue resources for returning to in-person meetings. Commission discussed recent surge in COVID-19 cases.

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/Peinado

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Commissioner Reports

5.1. District 1 Report (Flores-Martinez): No Report

5.2. District 2 Report (Peinado): No Report

5.3. District 3 Report (Silva-Robles): No Report

5.4. District 4 Report (De Santos): No Report

5.5. District 5 Report (Gomez): No Report

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

5.7. Santa Cruz City Report (Velasquez):

Velasquez introduced himself and provided some background information.

5.8. Watsonville City Report (Mendez): No Report

5.9. Watsonville City Report (Garcia):

Garcia reported that she will be registering voters at the Chicano All Stars Concert in the Plaza and the Strawberry Festival.

6. Staff Report:

Staff reported that both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Employee Survey data has been completed and the EEO office is developing a presentation summarizing aggregate results, key findings, and next steps. Commissioners are encouraged to provide brief bio paragraphs and photographs for the Commission's membership page.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*