City and County of San Francisco
Department on the Status of Women

Mayor
Daniel Lurie

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

5:00 pm
San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

COMMISSION ROSTER

Commission President	Diane Jones Lowrey (Excused)
Commission Vice President	Ani Rivera
Commissioner	Sophia Andary
Commissioner	Cecila Chung (Excused)
Commissioner	Dr. Shokooh Miry
Commissioner	Dr. Anne Moses
Commissioner	Dr. Raveena Rihal (Excused)

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER: DISCUSSION

Vice President Rivera called the meeting or order at 5:09 PM.
Ms. Dominique Blakely performed roll call and confirmed that 4 out of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Ms. Blakely read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land acknowledgement.

Opening remarks:
Vice President Ani Rivera acknowledged Domestic Violence Prevention Month and thanked DOSW staff, Commissioners, and community partners for their work throughout October. She then dedicated the meeting to the memory of Dolores Huerta, honoring her legacy as a pioneering labor leader and advocate for women's equality, immigrant rights, racial justice, and social change.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DISCUSSION and ACTION

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the special Commission meeting on October 8, 2026, and the regular Commission meeting on September 23, 2026.

No Public Comment.

October 8, 2026, Minutes— (Roll Call Vote) Moses (motioned)/Andary (seconded) – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

September 23, 2026, Minutes— (Roll Call Vote) Miry (motioned)/ Andary (seconded) – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

III. RECOGNITION OF BEVERLY UPTON: DISCUSSION

On behalf of the Commission Vice President Ani Rivera recognized Beverly Upton for over 25 years of leadership with the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium and her longstanding commitment to supporting survivors of domestic violence. She highlighted Beverly's collaboration with DOSW, advocacy for the Commission on the Status of Women, and contributions to strengthening partnerships and services for survivors throughout San Francisco. Shen then invited up Beverly Upton to the podium and turned to Dr. Aroche to share remarks.

Director Dr. Diana Aroche congratulated Beverly Upton and thanked her for decades of dedication to supporting survivors and advancing public safety. She highlighted Beverly's leadership in helping reduce domestic violence-related homicides in San Francisco, her commitment to

centering survivors, and her lasting impact on the community. Dr. Aroche expressed her personal gratitude and noted that the recognition was well deserved.

Beverly Upton thanked Director Dr. Diana Aroche and the Commission for the recognition, reflecting on their longstanding collaboration and the progress made in addressing domestic violence in San Francisco. She expressed gratitude for the partnerships and support of DOSW and community organizations, while emphasizing that significant work remains to address survivors' needs. Beverly also shared her personal experience accessing domestic violence services and how it inspired her lifelong advocacy. She announced her anticipated departure from the Domestic Violence Consortium in early 2027 and expressed her hope for a supportive leadership transition.

Commissioner Comment:
Commissioner Andary thanked Beverly Upton for sharing stories that demonstrate the importance of the work and the impact of survivor services. Commissioner Moses highlighted the importance of learning from each case and referenced the Courage and Justice Commission model as an approach that could inform future work with SFPD. Commissioner Miry praised Beverly's consistent survivor-centered approach and her leadership in keeping domestic violence prevention at the forefront of the City's efforts.

Dr. Aroche presented Beverly Upton with a Certificate of Recognition.

Public Comment:
Emberly Cross, Coordinating Attorney at the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic, praised Beverly's humility, generosity, and commitment to making space for survivors and emerging leaders. She expressed gratitude for Beverly's mentorship and lasting impact on the community.

Ivy Lee, Director of Mayor's Office of Victim's Rights, thanked the Commission and Director for recognizing Beverly, emphasizing her tireless advocacy and the progress she helped make in ensuring women are heard, respected, and welcomed in spaces of leadership. She

credited Beverly with paving the way for future advocates and called for continued resources to support those carrying on this work.

Rebecca Jackson, Community Forward, thanked the Commission for recognizing Beverly Upton and praised her longstanding advocacy for domestic violence services, providers, and women and children. She credited Beverly with inspiring others through her leadership and dedication across multiple mayoral administrations.

Dr. Tate, Director of Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence, expressed gratitude for Beverly Upton's mentorship, guidance, and leadership, crediting her with helping develop future leaders and strengthening the movement to support survivors. She acknowledged Beverly's lasting impact and wished her a well-deserved retirement.

Bobbi Lopez, Mayor's Office of Victims' Rights, praised Beverly Upton's humility, collaborative leadership, and compassion, highlighting her commitment to supporting colleagues and creating spaces for collaboration and mutual care among advocates. She also emphasized the importance of rest and self-care for those working to support survivors.

Taylor Stommel, Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence, praised Beverly Upton's dedication to showing up and advocating for continued funding of domestic violence services. They highlighted Beverly's role in building accountability, strengthening community partnerships, and ensuring survivors and young people are connected to needed resources.

IV. DRAFT LETTER TO CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS REGARDING EPSTEIN FILES: DISCUSSION and ACTION

The Commission reviewed the draft letter to the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Commissioners expressed support for the draft, noting it had been previously discussed. Vice President

Rivera shared that President Jones Lowrey would submit it on behalf of the Commission and provide an update at the next meeting.

No Public Comment.

Draft Letter— (Roll Call Vote) Miry (motioned)/ Moses (seconded) – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

V. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SFPD: DISCUSSION and ACTION

Both VP Rivera and Commissioner Miry agreed that the intention was not to duplicate existing efforts, but to systematize and codify current practices into a recommendation. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the draft recommendations section by section, considering proposed edits, clarifications, and additional language. Commissioner Moses motioned to approve the recommendations and Commissioner Miry seconded.

Public Comment:

Dr. Tate requested clarification distinguishing confidential advocates from victim advocates in Item 20.

Beverly Upton emphasized the need to expand confidential advocate training and ensure adequate support for advocates providing late-night and weekend services.

Emberly Cross emphasized the need to consider funding for survivor-serving organizations alongside SFPD's sexual assault and trauma-informed training.

Commissioners unanimously voted to not approve the recommendation and motioned to reopen for further amendments.

Based on community feedback, edits were made and Recommendation 21, "Ensure equitable funding to community-based agencies in order to

provide a robust supporting system" was added under Section 5. Commissioners approved the recommendations to be moved to SFPD and the Board of Supervisors.

Draft Recommendations— (Roll Call Vote) Miry (motioned)/ Moses (seconded) – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

VI. REQUEST FOR JOINT HEARING WITH THE POLICE COMMISSION: DISCUSSION and ACTION

Vice President Rivera welcomed Deputy City Attorney Alicia Cabrera to address clarifying questions. Commissioners discussed Brown Act considerations regarding a proposed joint hearing with the Police Commission. Deputy City Attorney Cabrera clarified that a joint meeting would require approval and a quorum of both commissions and recommended submitting the request directly to the Police Commission President. Commissioners discussed language for the request. Commissioner Miry proposed requesting a joint hearing between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Police Commission to discuss sexual assault investigation and response processes in San Francisco. Commissioners agreed.

Public Comment:

Dr. Tate acknowledged the capacity constraints of the involved staff and noted that either approach, or both, could be pursued based on the outcome of the submitted recommendations.

Request for a Joint Hearing— (Roll Call Vote) Miry (motioned)/ Andary (seconded) – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DISCUSSION

Director Aroche provided updates on Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Filipino American History Month, Women's Agenda action plans, interagency collaboration, National Midwifery Week, and the Gender Analysis of San Francisco Commissions and Boards Report.

She reported that 16 of 29 Women's Agenda action plans have been finalized, with the remaining plans undergoing review. Staff anticipate presenting the Gender Analysis of San Francisco Commissions and Boards Report and preliminary findings at the December Commission meeting. Director Aroche also thanked Commissioners for their participation in recent community events and highlighted upcoming Indigenous Heritage Month events.

Commissioner Comment:
Commissioner Miry thanked staff for their support in preparing for the joint hearing and offered to draft the invitation and background memo. Director Aroche welcomed the assistance and encouraged continued Commissioner involvement in planning the joint hearing.

No Public Comment.

VIII. COMMISSIONER UPDATE: DISCUSSION

Due to time constraints and the possibility of losing quorum, Commissioners moved to the general public comment item on the agenda.

IX. FUTUR AGENDA ITEMS

Due to time constraints and the possibility of losing quorum, Commissioners moved to the general public comment item on the agenda.

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: DISCUSSION

Commissioner Andary encouraged community members to make a plan to vote, educate themselves on the ballot and candidates, and use nonpartisan resources such as the League of Women Voters of San Francisco to make informed decisions.

Beverly Upton of the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium highlighted planned Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, including the October 8 joint hearing, an awareness event on October 22, and a rally at City Hall on October 27. She thanked DOSW for its longstanding leadership and support.

VP Rivera announced the upcoming Board of Supervisors hearing on November 9 regarding the proposed renaming of César Chávez Street to Las Campesinas and encouraged public support and comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.