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

Mayor
Daniel Lurie

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

5:00 pm
San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

COMMISSION ROSTER

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

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER: DISCUSSION

President Jones Lowrey called the meeting or order at 5:03 PM.
Ms. Dominique Blakely performed roll call and confirmed that 7 out of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Ms. Blakely read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land acknowledgement.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DISCUSSION and ACTION

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the regular Commission meeting on August 26, 2026.

Commissioner Miry questioned whether the draft letter regarding the Epstein files had been formally approved and requested that the minutes accurately reflect the approval process. It was clarified that no official vote had occurred. Deputy City Attorney, Christina Fletes, recommended agendizing the letter for a vote at the next meeting.

No Public Comment.

August 26, 2026, Minutes— (Roll Call Vote) Rihal (motioned)/ Moses (seconded) – 7 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

III. COMIMISSIONER UPDATE: DISCUSSION

The Commission discussed revisiting Women's Agenda priorities, aligning existing housing and CEDAW initiatives with the Commission's work, and monitoring proposed ballot measures affecting commissions and boards. Commissioners also discussed establishing a process under Old Business to track requests, provide updates, monitor data received, and assess the impact of ongoing efforts on the Women's Agenda.

Commissioner Andary requested that Old Business be categorized as a discussion and action item.

The Dr. Aroche noted that a tracker would require receipt of additional Action Plans.

Public Comment:
Dr. Pam Tate clarified the purpose of her letter requesting a town hall or hearing, emphasizing the importance of open dialogue between Commissioners, City departments, and the public to identify gaps, discuss concerns, and explore potential solutions.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

Commissioners discussed ongoing concerns regarding immigration enforcement and its impacts on women and families, with VP Rivera requesting continued agenda consideration and further coordination with OCEIA and other City departments. Commissioners also discussed women's and girls' safety, sexual assault investigations, rape kit processing, and potential engagement with the Police Commission, and menopause care.

President Jones Lowrey indicated these matters would remain under Old Business pending the outcome of the October 8 hearing. Additional discussion focused on economic empowerment, potential collaboration with the Small Business Commission, and developing programmatic priorities for private-public partnerships. President Jones Lowrey suggested that the Dr. Aroche identify proposed program areas and outcomes to guide fundraising efforts and leverage Commissioners' networks. VP Rivera suggested aligning these topics with the pillars of the Women's Agenda.

Public Comment:

Dr. Pam Tate shared plans for a November 5 summit with the Mayor's Office of Victims' Rights and other partners to discuss economic recovery for survivors of domestic violence, including housing stability, access to childcare, and long-term financial support.

V. DRAFT LETTER REGARDING THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OVERSIGHT BOARD: DISCUSSION

The Commission expressed approval of the letter and VP Rivera recommended preparing talking points in anticipation of media inquiries, and President Jones Lowrey recommended that Commissioners direct any media inquiries they receive to the Executive Director. Commissioner Andary requested that all Commissioners be listed as signatories at the bottom of the letter. VP Rivera proposed minor amendments to the final paragraph. The Commission approved

the letter, including the amendments, for submission to the Board of Supervisors.

Draft Letter— (Roll Call Vote) Moses (motioned)/ Miry (seconded) – 7 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

VI. UPDATE ON SPECIAL HEARING REGARDING SFPD'S SPECIAL VICTIM'S UNIT (SVU): DISCUSSION

The Commission discussed strategy for the October 8, 2026, joint hearing with the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee regarding SFPD policies and procedures, emphasizing transparency, accountability, measurable outcomes, and regular public reporting. Commissioners discussed developing recommendations following the hearing and possible engagement with the Police Commission. Commissioner Miry agreed to continue supporting discussions with the Supervisor's Office. The Commission agreed to add the request for a joint hearing with the Police Commission as a discussion and action item for the October meeting.

Public Comment:

Dr. Tate emphasized the longstanding concerns surrounding sexual assault evidence kits, referencing a prior case in which a survivor's DNA was used in a criminal investigation. She expressed support for ensuring kits are processed, acknowledging progress in separating the DNA from criminal databases, and thanked Commissioners for advocating on the issue.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DISCUSSION

Director Aroche provided updates on the Women's Agenda implementation, including departmental action plans and plans for a report by Women's History Month. She highlighted ongoing policy work related to domestic violence, incarcerated women, as well as maternal health initiatives and upcoming guaranteed income funding

opportunities. She also noted continued work on revisions to the CDEW policy and the gender analysis of City boards and commissions.

Commissioner Comment:
Commissioner Moses expressed concern about the lack of response to her follow-up inquiries regarding allegations of inappropriate strip searches and videotaping of women at the jail. Dr. Aroche noted the limitations on disclosing disciplinary matters but indicated that follow-up with the Sheriff's Office and the Department of Police Accountability (DPA) could be pursued to the extent that information could be shared. The Commission requested that the outcome of the Commission Streamlining Task Force ballot measure A be included in the Director's Report.

No Public Comment.

VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: DISCUSSION

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.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.