

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

Daniel Lurie, Mayor

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2026, 5:00 PM

San Francisco City Hall, Room 416

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

COMMISSIONERS

Hasib Emran, Chair

Leah Pimentel, Vice Chair

Eric Chang, Commissioner

Mark Kelleher, Commissioner

Sarah Montoya, Commissioner

Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner

Amerika Sanchez, Commissioner

Robert Sandoval, Commissioner

Michael Sweet, Commissioner

Rosie Williams, Commissioner

Mawuli Tugbenyoh

Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Commission Draft Meeting Minutes - September 10, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:04 PM by Chair Hasib Emran at San Francisco City Hall, Room 416, for the regular meeting of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission on September 10, 2026. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was confirmed.

Administrative announcements were provided regarding the in-person meeting format, public comment procedures, and meeting operations. Commissioner Sarah Montoya read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgment.

At roll call, Chair Hasib Emran and Commissioners Eric Chang, Mark Kelleher, Sarah Montoya, Irene Yee Riley, Michael Sweet, and Rosie Williams were present. Vice Chair Leah Pimentel, Amerika Sanchez and Robert Sandoval were absent.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened General Public Comment for matters within the Commission's jurisdiction and not on the agenda.

A member of the public discussed the history and continuing impacts of racial discrimination and urged continued attention to reparative justice and the work of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee.

A member of the public thanked City leaders and community partners for their work in San Francisco and encouraged the Commission to continue supporting Black communities and community-based organizations.

A member of the public discussed the difficulty of evaluating community-based programs solely through quantitative measures and emphasized the importance of recognizing community impact and lived experience when considering grants and programs.

A member of the public requested follow-up on youth justice and juvenile justice issues, including prior recommendations concerning juvenile facilities, mental health, and services for young people.

Several members of the public raised concerns regarding the Fillmore, including redevelopment, community displacement, employment opportunities, minority contracting, and the need for continued City investment and accountability in the neighborhood.

No additional speakers appeared. Public comment was closed.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 9, 2026 MEETING (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the July 9, 2026 meeting.

Public comment was opened. No members of the public provided comment. Public comment was closed.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the July 9, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion:

- Moved by Commissioner Irene Yee Riley to adopt the July 9, 2026 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by Commissioner Mark Kelleher.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Emran, Chang, Kelleher, Montoya, Riley, Sweet, and Williams.
- Noes: None.

Result:

- The July 9, 2026 meeting minutes were approved unanimously by all Commissioners present.

4. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL, AND INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION, TO AWARD SOLE SOURCE GRANT TO CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO FOR CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM ACCREDITATION SERVICES AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (Discussion Item and Possible Action Item)

The Commission received a presentation from Sarah Tseng, Policy Director for the Office of Racial Equity, with Commissioners Rosie Williams and Sarah Montoya, regarding a proposed sole source grant to City College of San Francisco to support accreditation services and curriculum development for a certified professional midwifery education program.

The presentation connected the proposal to the City's Strong Starts initiative and its work to improve pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes. Ms. Tseng described the initiative as focused on improving the experience of care and addressing racial disparities in maternal and infant health, with particular attention to communities experiencing disproportionate adverse outcomes.

Presenters discussed the role of midwives in providing pregnancy, childbirth, newborn, and postpartum care, including screening, diagnostic testing, mental health screening, and coordination with other health care providers. Commissioners also shared personal reflections on the value of midwifery care and the importance of patient autonomy and informed support during pregnancy and birth.

The Commission heard that the proposal would help City College build the foundation for a public midwifery education pathway, including the accreditation and curriculum work needed to prepare a future generation of midwives and expand the maternal health workforce.

The discussion addressed the importance of locating this training opportunity within a public educational institution, increasing access to training, building a sustainable workforce pipeline, and strengthening coordination among the Agency for Human Rights, City College, the Department on the Status of Women, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Early Childhood, and other partners involved in Strong Starts.

Commissioners asked questions regarding program development, enrollment, accreditation, implementation, workforce development, and how the proposed program would complement existing educational and health care pathways. Presenters described the proposed work as an incubating step toward a larger and more permanent midwifery education program.

Public comment was opened. Members of the public expressed support for expanding access to midwifery care and education and shared positive experiences with midwives and person-centered maternal health care. Public comment was closed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed sole source grant resolution for City College of San Francisco.

Motion:

- Moved by Commissioner Sarah Montoya to approve the sole source grant resolution.
- Seconded by Commissioner Rosie Williams.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Emran, Chang, Kelleher, Montoya, Riley, Sweet, and Williams.
- Noes: None.

Result:

- The resolution was approved unanimously by all Commissioners present.

6. TRANSGENDER HISTORY MONTH (Discussion Item)

The Commission took Agenda Item 6 out of order before returning to Agenda Item 5.

Honey Mahogany, Director of the Office of Transgender Initiatives, presented in recognition of Transgender History Month and reflected on San Francisco's history of transgender advocacy, the development of local protections and programs, and the continuing need to defend the safety, dignity, and rights of transgender, gender-nonconforming, and nonbinary people.

Director Mahogany highlighted past and current City efforts that have supported transgender communities, including chosen-name policies, all-gender restroom requirements, sexual orientation and gender identity data collection, gender diversity training for City staff, and programs designed to provide economic and community support to transgender residents.

The presentation addressed the current national environment affecting transgender people, including challenges related to health care, sports, public policy, and civil rights. Director Mahogany emphasized that transgender inclusion benefits the broader community by supporting safety, freedom, and the ability of people to live authentically.

Lyon-Martin Community Health Services was recognized for its longstanding work providing gender-affirming, reproductive, sexual, and primary health care. The presentation reviewed Lyon-Martin's history of expanding clinical expertise, training providers, creating clinical rotations, providing consultation to other health care professionals, and helping make gender-affirming care more accessible within mainstream health systems.

Representatives of Lyon-Martin reflected on the organization's growth from a small clinic serving people who struggled to find knowledgeable providers into a recognized source of transgender clinical expertise, including care coordination, provider education, and support for gender-affirming medical services.

Public comment was opened. Members of the public thanked the Commission and the Office of Transgender Initiatives for recognizing Transgender History Month and emphasized the importance of

safety, health care access, visibility, and continued advocacy for transgender people. Public comment was closed.

Commissioners thanked the presenters, reflected on the history of transgender advocacy in San Francisco, and discussed the need to continue protecting access to services and responding to discrimination and violence directed at transgender communities.

No formal action was taken on this item.

5. SOMA WEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

(Discussion Item)

The Commission returned to Agenda Item 5 and received a presentation concerning the concentration of shelters, transitional housing, affordable housing, and supportive services in the South of Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods.

The presentation reviewed the history of City policy concerning the geographic distribution of social services, including a 1999 Board of Supervisors resolution addressing long-range planning for social services and the principle that neighborhoods should share responsibility for housing and services.

Presenters described data showing that SOMA and the Tenderloin carry a substantially higher concentration of supportive services and affordable housing than an equitable citywide distribution would suggest. They emphasized that the neighborhoods support affordable housing and services, while arguing that the current concentration has created cumulative impacts that should be considered in future planning decisions.

The presentation discussed neighborhood conditions associated with the concentration of services, including street conditions, public safety, drug activity, and the challenges residents and small businesses experience when multiple high-need programs are located in the same area without sufficient neighborhood investment and support.

Speakers requested a more balanced approach to siting future services and housing, additional investment in SOMA and the Tenderloin, and clearer Citywide standards for evaluating neighborhood capacity, cumulative impacts, and equitable distribution.

Commissioners discussed the need for affordable housing and supportive services throughout San Francisco, asked questions about the data and methodology presented, and considered how the Commission could better understand both neighborhood impacts and the needs of people who rely on the services located in SOMA and the Tenderloin.

Public comment was opened. Members of the public spoke about neighborhood safety, quality-of-life conditions, affordable housing, service distribution, and the importance of ensuring that both service recipients and existing neighborhood residents are treated with dignity and supported by City policy. Public comment was closed.

Chair Emran thanked the presenters and indicated that the Commission would continue reviewing the information and consider appropriate follow-up. No formal action was taken on this item.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES

(Discussion Item)

Executive Director Mawuli Tugbenyoh provided Department updates regarding grants and programs, division work, organizational matters, and upcoming events and logistics.

The Executive Director discussed the continued growth of youth and student programming and noted that participants in City-supported programs have received opportunities and job offers from City departments. He thanked City partners and elected officials who have continued supporting the expansion of these programs and the creation of additional pathways for participants.

He also reported on grantee capacity-building work and the Department's collaboration with the Black Freedom Fund, describing the effort as intended to help community-based organizations strengthen administrative systems, grant readiness, and long-term organizational capacity.

The Executive Director provided staffing updates and recognized a longtime Human Rights Commission investigator who recently departed after more than a decade with the Department, thanking the employee for handling cases with integrity, compassion, professionalism, and commitment.

Public comment was opened. A member of the public raised concerns about community conditions and the need for continued attention and oversight by City agencies. Public comment was closed.

Commissioners thanked the Executive Director for the updates and briefly discussed areas for continued follow-up. No formal action was taken on this item.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE (Discussion Item)

The Commission discussed agenda items for the next meeting and confirmed the next regular meeting date of Thursday, September 24, 2026.

Chair Emran reminded members of the public that proposed agenda items may be submitted to the Commission Secretary and noted that the Commission would continue working through items planned for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year.

Public comment was opened. A member of the public raised an issue concerning worker protections and recent legislation and requested future Commission attention to the matter. Public comment was closed.

No formal action was taken on this item beyond discussion of future agenda items and confirmation of the September 24 meeting date.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Before adjournment, Chair Emran acknowledged recent community losses and incidents and thanked Commissioners, staff, presenters, and members of the public for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:41 PM.

Prepared by:

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