

# **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

City and County of San Francisco

*Daniel Lurie, Mayor*

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**JULY 10, 2025, 5:00 PM**

**San Francisco City Hall, Room 416**

**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place**

**San Francisco, CA 94102**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

Leah Pimentel, Chair

Hasib Emran, Vice Chair

Mark Kelleher, Commissioner

Sarah Montoya, Commissioner

Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner

Amerika Sanchez, Commissioner

Robert Sandoval, Commissioner

Michael Sweet, Commissioner

Rosie Williams, Commissioner

### **Mawuli Tugbenyoh**

Acting Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

## 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Leah Pimentel called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM.

**Land Acknowledgement:** Delivered by Vice Chair Hasib Emran, recognizing the Ramaytush Ohlone people as the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

### Roll Call of Commissioners:

#### Present:

1. Chair Leah Pimentel
2. Vice Chair Hasib Emran
3. Commissioner Mark Kelleher
4. Commissioner Sarah Montoya
5. Commissioner Irene Yee Riley
6. Commissioner Amerika Sanchez
7. Commissioner Michael Sweet
8. Commissioner Rosie Williams

#### Absent:

1. Commissioner Robert Sandoval

Quorum was confirmed.

## 2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Five members of the public addressed the Commission.

- **Lynette Mackey** criticized the cancellation of grants that had already been awarded and emphasized the original intent of DKI to serve the Black community.
- **Adrian Williams** expressed frustration over her proposal's disqualification on a technicality and emphasized her long history of service.
- **Jeffrey Greer** condemned the exclusion of legacy Black arts organizations from funding and called the RFP process flawed.
- **Mary Rivers** questioned the lack of transparency and access to scoring information, especially for organizations with high scores.
- **Gwendolyn Brown** alleged retaliation against SF Black Wall Street for past advocacy and called for a pause in disbursements and an independent re-evaluation.

Chair Pimentel thanked the speakers and reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to transparency and equity.

### **3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 26, 2025**

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the June 26, 2025 Commission meeting.

**Commissioner Riley** noted the adjournment motion in the minutes lacked a named seconder.

**Vice Chair Emran** offered to be recorded as the seconder.

**Commissioner Sweet** and Secretary Lepe acknowledged the issue and confirmed that audio would be reviewed for accuracy.

**City Attorney Jesse Mainardi** advised that the Commission could approve the minutes with a pending amendment.

**Motion:** Commissioner Sweet moved to approve the June 26, 2025 minutes, subject to an amendment clarifying the seconder.

**Second:** Vice Chair Emran

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

### **4. ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES (Discussion Item)**

**Presenter:** Acting Director Mawuli Tugbenyoh

Tugbenyoh provided an overview of the RFP 100 process, noting that over 200 proposals were submitted requesting over \$60 million. The department had \$17 million in available funding. He reviewed the application timeline, clarified that HRC staff did not score proposals, and confirmed the protest period was extended to July 14, 2025. He also noted \$7 million was reserved for future foundation-distributed funds.

**Public Comment:**

- **Sherry Young** shared her organization's strong scores but expressed concern about budget documentation errors and lack of notification.
- **Brecken Flournoy** described issues with email-based submissions and requested a secure digital interface.
- **Jeffrey Greer** criticized the systemic exclusion of legacy Black organizations.
- **Bivett Brackett** opposed the use of AI in evaluation, citing bias against community-rooted organizations.

- **Speaker 15** urged the Commission to act with dignity and fairness toward the Black community.
- **Gwendolyn Brown** questioned why the DKI portfolio was paused and alleged disproportionate scrutiny on Black-led organizations.
- **Lynette Mackey** reiterated the need to reset the process to honor DKI's original purpose.

#### **Commissioner Comments:**

- **Vice Chair Emran** asked about the timeline following the protest period and how successful protests would be handled.
- **Commissioner Kelleher** inquired about protest review procedures for missing documentation and suggested disclosure of indirect costs in future foundation applications.
- **Commissioner Williams** asked about the \$7M fund and how communication would be handled.
- **Commissioner Sanchez** asked whether a large number of errors could trigger a reissuance.
- **Commissioner Riley** sought clarification on the scoring and funding process and requested commissioner review of awardees.
- **Chair Pimentel** asked whether the Commission could reject the award list.

Tugbenyoh responded to each question, affirming transparency, oversight, and flexibility to resolve valid protests and restructure the process if necessary. He thanked the community for its engagement.

### **5. DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH (Discussion Item)**

**Presenters:** Matthew Oglander, HRC Civil Rights Division; Helen Smolinski, Office on Disability and Accessibility

Oglander and Smolinski discussed the significance of Disability Pride Month, emphasizing its intersectionality with other communities, San Francisco's historic role in disability rights, and the current status of related complaints and services. They reviewed upcoming ADA35 events and updates to digital accessibility efforts.

#### **Commissioner Comments:**

- **Commissioner Sanchez** emphasized the relevance of intersectionality and asked about public access to complaint data.
- **Chair Pimentel** inquired about accessibility issues and community partnerships.
- **Commissioner Williams** asked about third-party filings and access for non-English speakers.

**Public Comment:** None

Chair Pimentel thanked the presenters and reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

## **6. PROPOSED CLOSED SESSION (Action Item)**

Chair Pimentel introduced Item 6, a proposed closed session under California Government Code Section 54956.9 and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10, to consult with the City Attorney regarding existing and anticipated litigation. She clarified that this was a discussion item only and no action would be taken during the session.

**Public Comment:** One speaker asked whether any details from the closed session would be disclosed. City Attorney Jesse Mainardi stated that following the session, the Commission would vote on whether to disclose its contents. No other public comment was received.

**Motion:** Commissioner Sweet moved to assert attorney-client privilege and enter closed session.

**Second:** Commissioner Riley seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously (8-0), with Commissioners Pimentel, Emran, Kelleher, Montoya, Riley, Sanchez, Sweet, and Williams voting in favor.

The Commission entered closed session.

## **7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE (Discussion Item)**

Chair Pimentel confirmed the next regular Commission meeting will take place on August 14, 2025. She invited commissioners to propose agenda items.

### **Commissioner Comments:**

- **Commissioner Riley** suggested inviting the Mayor's appointed Director.
- **Commissioner Williams** inquired about the timing of RFP 100 award approvals and mentioned she would be unavailable on August 14.
- **Commissioner Kelleher** asked whether a retreat date had been set.
- **Commissioner Williams** proposed holding a staff meeting in September.

Acting Director Tugbenyoh noted that a special meeting might be scheduled for July 24 and recommended identifying a retreat date a few months out. He offered to poll commissioners for both items.

**Public Comment:** None

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pimentel thanked commissioners and members of the public for their participation. She reaffirmed that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for August 14, 2025.

**Motion:** Commissioner Montoya moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

**Minutes prepared by:** Jessica Lepe, Commission Secretary, SF Human Rights Commission