

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

Daniel Lurie, Mayor

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 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
Eric Chang, Commissioner
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner
Monroe Lace, 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 Final Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Leah Pimentel called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

Roll Call:

Commission Secretary Jessica Lepe conducted roll call.

Present:

1. Leah Pimentel, Chair
2. Hasib Emran, Vice Chair
3. Eric Chang, Commissioner
4. Monroe Lace, Commissioner
5. Sarah Montoya, Commissioner
6. Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner
7. Amerika Sanchez, Commissioner
8. Michael Sweet, Commissioner

Absent:

1. Mark Kelleher, Commissioner
2. Robert Sandoval, Commissioner
3. Rosie Williams, Commissioner

Quorum: Commission Secretary Jessica Lepe confirmed that a quorum was established, allowing the meeting to proceed.

Land Acknowledgment:

Vice Chair Emran delivered the land acknowledgment recognizing the Ramaytush Ohlone people as the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

Announcements:

Commission Secretary Jessica Lepe announced meeting location and procedures, including that public comment would be taken on each agenda item, speakers are allotted up to three minutes, remote public comment is no longer accepted, and written comments may be emailed to hrc.commission@sfgov.org at least 24 hours in advance.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Discussion Item)

Chair Emran opened general public comment on matters within the Commission's jurisdiction that were not on the agenda.

Secretary Lepe announced that public comment would be accepted on matters within the Commission's jurisdiction but not on the current agenda.

Public Comment:

Patricia Holden expressed concerns regarding alleged civil rights violations affecting her and her family and criticized the responsiveness of public agencies. She urged the Commission to take more direct action in addressing these concerns.

No additional members of the public came forward.

Public comment was closed.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2025 (Discussion and Action Item)

Chair Leah Pimentel introduced Item 3 regarding review and anticipated adoption of the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes.

Public Comment:

Patricia Holden expressed objections to the substance of the prior meeting minutes and reiterated concerns regarding civil rights protections and agency accountability.

Public comment was closed.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner **Amerika Sanchez** noted a typographical error in the spelling of her name on pages two and four of the December 11, 2025 minutes. No additional edits were proposed.

Action:

Motion: Commissioner Michael Sweet moved to approve the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes with correction to Commissioner Sanchez's name.

Second: Commissioner Hasib Emran.

Vote:

Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Result:

The December 11, 2025 meeting minutes were approved with the noted correction.

4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS UPDATE – (Discussion Item)

Presenter:

Chair Pimentel introduced the item and invited **Brittni Chicuata, Director of Economic Rights**, to present.

Presentation:

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Director Chiguata announced the opening of applications for the **Equity Advisory Committee** and **LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee**, with a closing date of **February 5, 2026**. She thanked supporting Commissioners and encouraged broad outreach to ensure diverse community representation.

Public Comment:

Patricia Holden expressed concerns regarding ongoing civil rights issues and questioned the effectiveness of advisory committees in addressing urgent harms.

No additional speakers came forward. Public comment was closed.

Commission Discussion:

- Commissioner Lace highlighted priority focus areas for the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee and emphasized the importance of diverse representation.
- Commissioner Chang asked about applicant selection criteria; Director Chiguata stated that review would prioritize broad community representation across identified priority areas.

The item was concluded.

5. ELECTION OF THE 2026 COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR – (Action Item)

Chair Pimentel introduced the annual election in accordance with Commission bylaws.

A. Election of Chair

Public Comment:

No members of the public came forward. Public comment was closed.

Nominations and Action:

Chair Pimentel nominated **Hasib Emran** for Chair.

Second: Commissioner Michael Sweet.

No further nominations were made.

Vote:

Roll call vote conducted by Secretary Lepe.

Result:

Hasib Emran was elected **Chair of the Human Rights Commission for 2026** by majority vote.

Chair Remarks:

Chair Emran thanked Commissioners and expressed commitment to transparency, accountability, and strengthening public trust.

B. Election of Vice Chair

Public Comment:

No members of the public came forward. Public comment was closed.

Nominations and Action:

Commissioner Irene Yee Riley nominated Leah Pimentel for Vice Chair.

No further nominations were made.

Vote:

Roll call vote conducted by Secretary Lepe.

Result:

Leah Pimentel was elected **Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission for 2026** by majority vote.

Vice Chair Remarks:

Vice Chair Pimentel thanked the Commission and reflected on continued collaboration in the coming year.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DEPARTMENT UPDATE – (Discussion Item)

Chair Emran invited **Executive Director Mawuli Tugbenyoh** to present.

Director's Report:

The Executive Director congratulated Commission leadership and acknowledged participation in reproductive rights and Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative events. He provided updates on Hunters Point climate resilience discussions, the inaugural Human Rights Awards, MLK Day activities, Opportunities for All and ChangeSF youth initiatives, Sheriff's Office civil rights recommendations, sanctuary ordinance investigation involving SFPD data sharing, and an upcoming Agency for Human Rights budget community meeting.

Commissioner Questions and Comments:

No Commissioner questions were raised.

Public Comment:

- Desiree Pearson expressed concerns regarding recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and broader civil rights conditions affecting Black community members in San Francisco.
- Patricia Holden criticized Commission responsiveness to civil rights concerns and urged greater accountability and engagement.

Public comment was closed.

The item was concluded.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING & CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Emran introduced discussion of future agenda items and scheduling.

The Commission discussed the **January 29, 2026** retreat, including timing, location, and quorum confirmation. Commissioners were asked to confirm attendance with staff.

Public Comment:

No members of the public came forward. Public comment was closed.

Result:

The next meeting date of **January 29, 2026** was confirmed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Emran thanked Commissioners, staff, and the public for participation.

Action:

Motion: Commissioner Irene Yee Riley moved to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Sarah Montoya.

Vote:

Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Result:

The meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Prepared by:

Jessica Lepe, Commission Secretary, SF Human Rights Commission

Dreissy Sop Reyes, Commission Secretary Aide, SF Human Rights Commission