

**Marin Human Rights Commission —Special Meeting Drafted Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023 — 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 410B  
San Rafael, CA 94903

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**Order of Business**

Call to Order and Roll Call at 7:02 p.m.

**Present:** Curtis Aikens (CA), Jason Sarris (JS), Gloria Castillo (GC), Jeremy Portje (JP); **Absent:** Nancy Johnson (NJ)

1) Approval of Minutes

- a) Adoption of drafted Minutes for July 11, 2023 *CA/JS/p*
- b) Adoption of drafted Minutes for August 8, 2023 *meeting canceled*
- c) Member of the Public, Rodrigo Izquierdo: Discusses September Regular Meeting cancellation without reason and lack of transparency.
- d) Member of the Public, Eva Chrysanthe: Requests review of how many HRC meetings have been canceled.

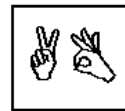
2) Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

- a) Member of the Public, Rodrigo Izquierdo: Discusses The Brown Act; requests 3-5 minutes for members of the public to speak
- c) Member of the Public, Meg: Discusses crisis intervention needed at Marin County Jail, inmates are currently taken to Santa Clara for crisis intervention
- d) Member of the Public, Lisa Bennett: Unable to see commissioner faces on Zoom
- e) Member of the Public, Eva Chrysanthe: Discusses Sheriff's working group missing recordings, and lack of working group members' ties to law enforcement.

**Regular Business**

3) Continued discussion, with a possible 20-minute presentation, of the conditions at the various locations of unhoused communities and their access to essential needs.

- a) JP: The commission was unable to get the presentation.
- b) JS: Looked into port-a-potties for the unhoused in San Rafael, Novato and Fairfax. Novato has wash stations, bathrooms, pump out service, and dumpster supplied by Marin County.



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San Rafael camp has reached out to JS. San Rafael has funds. Marin County has received funds to provide port-a-potties and wash stations. In San Rafael there is a privately funded GoFundMe account for port-a-potties. San Rafael is not providing the funding but will waive permits. JS has spoken with the Mayor of Fairfax. The Mayor was waiting for guidance from the county. CA asks JS to share emails/correspondence he receives from cities regarding this issue with commission.

c) CA: asks JS to share emails/correspondence he receives from cities with commission.

d) JP: HRC should form a subcommittee when the commission has retreat.

e) JP and JS suggest Gary Naja-Riese to make presentation to the commission.

f) JP: There are 6 people living at Peri Park in Fairfax. It's a health and safety issue. San Rafael should be helping out.

g) CA: Can the commission ask or demand that cities spend money for port-a-potties.

h) JS: To get housing in Marin, there is a vulnerability score. Vouchers are coming in October through Marin Housing Authority, St. Vincent's, and the Ritter Center.

i) CA: As a body, can the commission help by drafting a statement to San Rafael? CA offers to draft a statement and bring to the HRC next meeting for discussion.

j) JP: Suggests lending money from the HRC budget to cities for port-a-potties, especially Fairfax and San Rafael.

k) JS: Suggests following up and speaking to Fairfax first.

l) JP: Next month HRC can vote on sending a public statement to San Rafael.

m) CA: States if San Rafael has funds, HRC should voice their opinion with statement for funds. Feeling safe is a human right. If the funds are there, HRC should issue a public statement.

n) GC: Discusses getting clarification on policies. Ask the unhoused what they want.

o) JP: Discusses getting a joint presentation possibly with Selena Sanchez, Gary Naja-Riese from County of Marin, Dr. Chris Hess of the San Rafael Community Development, Chance Cutrono in Fairfax.

p) JS: Discusses Follow up with Fairfax if they are interested in port-a-potties. Pressure County to do a presentation of Hamilton. Novato and the County are moving in the right direction.

q) JP will arrange a presentation and then the HRC can draft a statement.

r) JP discusses allocating HRC funds for post-a potties in Fairfax and San Rafael.

Motion to set aside funds to cities up to \$700.00 for a port-a-pottie in Fairfax for one month.

Work with Fairfax for location. HRC will work with town of Fairfax for placement.

\$1,400.00 for additional port-a-potties in San Rafael.



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- a) Member of the Public, Rodrigo Izquierdo: Discusses the HRC in San Francisco. Suggests the Marin HRC ask supervisors for a substantial amount of money so they can act. This is a humanity crisis.
- b) Member of the Public, Eva Chrysanthe: Comments recording started late. Berkeley restarts meetings when they recording hasn't been started. Discusses vouchers from unhoused. Suggests all community centers and public bathrooms should be opened to the public.
- c) Member of the Public, Meg: No one should be accusing people of being responsible for deaths of unhoused.

*JP/JS/p*  
*JP, JS, GC: yea; CA: nay*

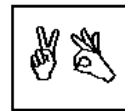
- 4) Creation of an ad-hoc committee under the Marin County Human Rights Commission to draft suggested policies and procedures for the HRC to accept and investigate public complaints. The committee is tasked with making a recommendation to the full Commission.

Motion reworded to create an ad-hoc committee charged with putting together suggested policies and procedures for the HRC to accept and ensure public complaints are investigated.

- a) JP: The HRC has changed the wording of this agenda item. The HRC will not investigate but will forward complaints to the proper channel.
- b) JS: States he believes the HRC should be receiving human rights complaints.
- c) Member of the Public, Rodrigo Izquierdo: Discusses HRC website that existed in 2014.
- d) Member of the Public, Eva Chrysanthe: Asks how HRC will be a conduit for complaints if they're not investigating. Discusses conflicts of interest on HRC.
- e) Member of the Public, Meg: States that she denounces person accusing another person of being responsible for deaths.
- f) Member of the Public, Lisa Bennett: Suggests examining the process for complaining about the Sheriff.
- g) JS: Discusses ensuring complaints get to the right place and importance of follow-up.
- h) JP: Suggests putting this idea to the entire commission.

*JP/JS/p*  
*JP/JS/GC: yea; CA nay*

8:16 - break  
8:21 – back to order



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- 5) Discuss the Marin County Human Rights Commission issuing a public statement regarding recent in-custody deaths. (Comms. Sarris and Portje)
- a) JP: Discusses that HRC should issue a public statement.
  - b) JP: Discusses concerns about death including time of day, and suicide in front of someone. HRC can draft a public statement at the retreat.
  - c) CA: Discusses treatment of incarcerated and treatment.
  - d) JP: Discusses assigning someone as liaison at the retreat.
  - d) JS: Discusses the commission should take comments from the public and make what's going on in the jail a priority.
  - e) JP: Discusses that if depression is causing suicide in the jail, better health care in the jail is needed.
- 6) Motion that JP drafts a public statement from HRC on the in-custody death, based in accuracy, posing questions about inmate access to mental health care.

GC: Suggests also asking why inmates in crisis are taken to Santa Clara.

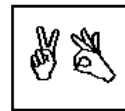
JS: Suggests HRC should also take suggestions from public.

- a) Member of the Public, Rodrigo Izquierdo: Discusses suicide and the inability to stop someone from committing suicide.
- b) Member of the Public, Meg: The incarcerated should go for mental assessment.
- c) Member of the Public, Eva Chrysanthe: Discusses HRC February meeting, connections with the Sherriff's Oversight and jails.

*JP/CA/p*

- 7) Commissioner Announcements for Items Not on the Agenda
- a) CA: He shared with Judy Arnold his son's position with SFPD and Sonoma Sherriff.
  - b) GC: October 12 Novato dinner 6-7:30 pm to support Latinx Mental Health at the North Marin Community Center.
  - c) CA: Job Fair in Marin City at St. Anthony's on Saturday, September 23, 2023.
  - d) Member of the Public, Meg: Discusses there should be sanctions for abusive behavior at meetings.
  - e) Member of the Public, Rodrigo Izquierdo: Discusses the Brown Act and procedure.
  - f) Member of the Public, Eva Chrysanthe: Discusses racial demographics.

Adjournment - adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.



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