



Agenda
County of Sonoma
Commission on Human Rights – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

5:30PM

Hybrid

First District: Howard Sapper, Daniel H Sohn (Officer-at-Large)

Second District: Nichole Warwick (Leave of Absence) Rob Izzo

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Liz Cruz Reyes, Angie Avalos Cendejas

Fourth District: Cecilia Sofranko (Vice Chair), David Escobar (Officer-at-Large), Alex Garcia Ramirez

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, Nick Thayer, Susan Hirsch

Meeting Information:

The August 25, 2026, Commission on Human Rights Meeting will be facilitated in person and virtually.

Members of the public can watch, listen, or join the meeting using one of the three following methods:

1. Join in person:

Human Resources Large Training Room

575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Limited seating is available for public participants.

2. Join virtually via Zoom:

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application. Go to:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99356615285?pwd=UUlSNlIDQkUvTitzTWQ5bnNkL2NBUT09>

Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285

Passcode: 575862

3. Join in Zoom by telephone:

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128

Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285

Passcode: 575862

Instructions for the Public:

Agendas and Materials: Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the Commission's website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Human-Rights/Calendar/>. Due to legal, copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. **Materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission at chr@sonomacounty.gov.**

Disabled Accommodation: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Deputy Clerk at (707) 565-1851, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

Approval of the Consent Calendar: The Consent Calendar includes routine financial and administrative actions that are usually approved by a single majority vote. There will be no discussion on these items prior to voting on the motion unless Commission Members request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

Public Comment: Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda: Members of the public are invited to join this meeting via Zoom teleconferencing. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Each person is usually granted three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Commission, under the Brown Act, Commission members may not deliberate or take any action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

Commitment to Civil Engagement: All are encouraged to engage in respectful dialog that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. Commissioners, Staff, and the public are encouraged to:

- Create an atmosphere of respect and civility where Commissioners, County Staff, and the Public are free to express their ideas within the time and content parameters established by the Brown Act and CHR's standard Parliamentary procedures (Robert's Rules of Order);
- Establish and maintain a cordial and respectful atmosphere during discussions;
- Foster meaningful dialogue free of attacks of a personal nature and/or attacks based on age, (dis)ability, class, education level, gender, gender identity, occupation, race and/or ethnicity, sexual orientation;

- Listen with an open mind to all information, including dissenting points of view, regarding issues presented to the Commission;
- Recognize it is sometimes difficult to speak at meetings, and out of respect for each person's perspective, allow speakers to have their say without comment or body gestures, including booing, whistling, or clapping.

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

- I. Call To Order – Mission Statement – Roll Call – Phillips**
- II. Kathleen Finigan Award Ceremony (45 Min)**
CHR honors Susan Lamont for their outstanding advocacy for the unhoused community.
- III. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items – Phillips**
Public comment is limited to **two** minutes per topic or **four** minutes when using interpretation services.
- IV. Consent Items– Phillips**
 1. Approval of the July 28, 2026, meeting minutes.
- V. Openings and appointments– Phillips**
 1. Openings – one (1) in the First District, and one (1) in the Second District.
- VI. Officer Reports and Administrative Updates**
Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.
- VII. Commissioner Announcements and Other Business on Non-Agendized Items**
An opportunity for Commissioners to share brief updates, announcements, or raise additional items not included on the published agenda. No formal action will be taken unless the item is scheduled for a future meeting in accordance with applicable rules and procedures.
- VIII. Ad Hoc Committee and Project Committee Updates**
Commissioners to provide reports and/or updates from the work being done by their ad hoc committee(s) and/or project committee(s).
 1. The Youth Commission Educational Program Updates

IX. Regular Calendar – Discussion and possible action on items below

1. Discussion of Vetting Process- Sofranko (15 min)

Create a vetting process, including key criteria, procedures, roles and responsibilities, and opportunities to improve consistency, liability, safety, and transparency.

X. Additional Agenda Items for The Next Commission Meeting– Phillips

1. Human Rights Summit Debrief- move to September
2. Use of AI Presentation
3. Visibility Project Data Presentation

XI. Adjournment

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

Second District: Rob Izzo

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Liz Cruz Reyes*, Angie Avalos Cendejas

Fourth District: Cecilia Sofranko (Vice Chair), David Escobar (Officer-at-Large), Alex Garcia Ramirez

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, Susan Hirsch, Nick Thayer

Commissioners Absent:

First District: Howard Sapper (Leave of absence), Daniel H. Sohn (Officer-at-Large)

Second District: Nichole Warwick (Leave of absence)

* Commissioner Cruz Reyes arrived late, at approximately 5:32 p.m.

Meeting held virtually and in person.

I. Call To Order – Mission Statement – Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:30PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement.
Roll call taken by Staff Support.

II. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

No Public Comment

III. Consent Items

1. Approval of the June 23, 2026, meeting minutes. No discussion was taken. Motion to approve the June 23, 2026, meeting minutes.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Izzo

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Thayer

Absent:34

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Sapper, Sohn, and Warwick were absent. Commissioner Cruz Reyes arrived late Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

IV. Openings and appointments

1. Chair Phillips announced current vacancies in the First and Second Districts.

V. Officer Reports and Administrative Updates

1. A reminder was provided that the CHR FY 2026–2027 Work Plan is included as a consent item on the Board of Supervisors’ meeting agenda for August 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. HR will be present to represent CHR and respond to any questions from the Board.

VI. Commissioner Announcements and Other Business on Non-Agendized Items

1. Commissioner Burcina shared that community awareness of the Human Rights Commission is growing, with a community member expressing interest in attending public meetings after learning about the Commission online.
2. Commissioner Cruz Reyes shared information about the upcoming California Association of Human Rights Relations Organizations (CAHRO) gathering in Los Angeles on August 29, 2026, and invited Commissioners to attend. The event will focus on collaboration among human rights organizations and discussions on community concerns, outreach, and preparedness efforts. Travel expenses for the trip will be covered through a member of the organization.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee and Project Committee Updates

1. Commissioner Hirsch provided an update on her two projects. The Soup Project is increasing participation and community support through donated items and family resources. Updates were also shared on the human rights workshops, which continue to engage incarcerated individuals and provide meaningful discussions on human rights. Concerns about the condition of the outdoor courtyard at the county jail were brought up and potential opportunities to collaborate with community organizations on improvements to create a more dignified space.

VIII. Regular Calendar

1. Human Rights Summit Debrief- Sohn

The debrief on the Human Rights Summit, including key highlights, outcomes, and opportunities to apply lessons learned to future summits, has been postponed due to Commissioner Sohn's absence.

2. The Use of AI- Sofranko

The presentation on the use of AI has been rescheduled to a later meeting date.

3. Land Acknowledgement-Phillips

The Commission discussed creating a meaningful land acknowledgement and emphasized the importance of avoiding a statement that feels performative. Commissioners agreed that authentic relationships with local Indigenous communities should come before drafting or adopting new language.

Key points included:

- Recognizing the importance of education, honoring Indigenous history, and acknowledging ongoing impacts of colonization.
- Learning from past engagement efforts and ensuring future outreach follows appropriate community channels.
- Exploring ways to build relationships through attending events, inviting Indigenous leaders and youth to participate, and creating opportunities for dialogue.
- Considering a future community roundtable or educational event focused on Indigenous voices and perspectives.

Commissioners will continue exploring ways to strengthen relationships with local Indigenous communities and bring ideas for meaningful engagement to a future meeting. No action was taken.

IX. Additional Agenda Items for The Next Commission Meeting

1. Kathleen Finigan Award
2. Presentation of the Visibility Project Data
3. Youth Commission Project Update

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.