

AGENDA
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

5:30PM

Virtual

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Kathleen Finigan, Omar Paz Jr.
(Officer-at-Large)

Second District: Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair), Iliana Madrigal, Yensi Jacobo

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez,

Fourth District: Paulina Lopez, Rosa Reynoza

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, D'Ayona Jerome

Staff: Adriana Call

The July 26, 2022 Commission on Human Rights Meeting will be facilitated virtually through Zoom.

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application:

Go to:

[https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99283822992?pwd=Wi9wZUpzOTBsSDVSaFRQOH
B0ZmFTUT09](https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99283822992?pwd=Wi9wZUpzOTBsSDVSaFRQOHB0ZmFTUT09)

Passcode: 308124

Participate by phone:

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128

Webinar ID: 992 8382 2992

Passcode: 308124

Instructions for the Public:

In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconference Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the Commission on the Status of Women meetings will be held virtually.

Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) on September 16, 2021, which amends the Ralph M. Brown Act to provide additional provisions that allow

meetings of legislative bodies to continue to be conducted via teleconference. This Resolution makes the findings to confirm the current conditions allow teleconference meetings pursuant to AB 361 for the Board of Supervisors and on behalf of all of the commissions and committees created by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Government Code section 54952(b). This will allow members of the public to safely observe and participate in local government meetings during the continued pandemic.

The following are key provisions of the Executive Order with the substantive changes from the prior order identified in bold below:

- Allows public agencies to hold public meetings via teleconference and to make the meeting accessible electronically or telephonically to all member of the public seeking to attend and address the Board.
- The requirement that each teleconference location be publicly accessible is suspended.
- The requirement to post agendas at all teleconference locations and notice each location where the member is calling in from is suspended.
- The requirement that at least a quorum be present in the boundaries of the jurisdiction is suspended.
- Notice must still be given 72 hours in advance for regular meeting and 24 hours in advance for special meetings.
- Local Agencies may hold meetings via teleconferencing and allow the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically. (NOTE: the prior order required at least one physical location be open for the public to observe and address the meeting. A physical location for observing the meeting is no longer required.)
- If meeting is held telephonically or otherwise electronically, agencies must implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modification or accommodations from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the ADA. The procedure must be advertised each time notice of the meeting is given.
- Agencies are encouraged to use sound discretion and to make reasonable efforts to adhere to the Brown Act as closely as possible.

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. **NOTE: Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission at chr@sonoma-county.org.**

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.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS**
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 28, 2022 MINUTES – PHILLIPS**
- III. **OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS**
 1. Appointment- Commissioner D’Ayona Jerome, Fifth District
 2. Openings –one (1) in the Third District, one (1) in the Fourth District and two (1) in the Fifth District
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – PHILLIPS**

Public comment is limited to **two** minutes per topic or **four** minutes when using interpretation services
- V. **REGULAR CALENDAR – Discussion and possible action on items below**
 1. **Spotlight** – Donna Waldman, Director, Jewish Free Clinic
 2. **Palms Inn-Report** by Kathleen Finnigan
 3. **Commission on Human Rights Mission Statement Review** - Finnigan
Review of the revised Mission Statement, edits, discussion.
- 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.

 1. **Upcoming Outreach Events** – Phillips
 2. **Work Plan Rough Draft** – Escalante
- VII. **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).
- VIII. **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING – PHILLIPS**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

5:30PM

Virtual

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Omar Paz Jr. (Officer-at-Large)

Second District: Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair), Iliana Madrigal, Yensi Jacobo

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair),

Fourth District: Paulina Lopez,

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina

Staff: Meira Bowcut, Adriana Call

Commissioners Absent:

First District: Kathleen Finigan

Third District: Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Rosa Reynosa

*Commissioner Burcina arrived at approximately 5:40 PM.

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:36 PM. Chair read the mission statement. Staff took roll call.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 24, 2022 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Motion: Commissioner Paz

Second: Commissioner Escalante

Aye: Commissioner Jacobo, Commissioner Sapper, , Commissioner Burcina, Commissioner Madrigal

Abstain: Commissioner Paulina Lopez

Absent: Commissioner Finigan, Commissioner Isabel Lopez, Commissioner Reynosa

Motion passed

III. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 29, 2022, PLANNING MEETING MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Motion: Commissioner Paz

Second: Commissioner Sapper

Aye: Commissioner Jacobo, Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Burcina, Commissioner Madrigal, Commissioner Escalante

Absent: Commissioner Finigan, Commissioner Isabel Lopez, Commissioner Reynosa

Motion passed

IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Openings –one (1) in the Third District, one (1) in the Fourth District and two (2) in the Fifth District

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – PHILLIPS

No one addressed the commission.

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Honoring of Kevin Burke (†), Former Chief of Police, Healdsburg, CA - Phillips

Chief of Police Matt Jenkins, City of Healdsburg; Chief of Police Mike Raasch, Town of Windsor; Chief of Police Kevin Kilgore, City of Sebastopol; and Susan Ferran and Devyn Breslin, First Responders Resiliency Inc., are presenting.

Guests honored and shared heartfelt memories of a “truly remarkable person”, Chief Kevin Burke.

Susan Ferran also gave information about First Resiliency Inc., and how important that work is for all of our community, most especially first responders.

Public Comment: No public comment

2. Palms Inn-Report by Kathleen Finnigan

Commissioner Finnigan was not able to present. Chair Phillips noted the report on the Palms Inn and requested that everyone read the report and to push the information out on their own social media pages.

3. Commission on Human Rights Mission Statement Review - Finnigan

Review of the revised Mission Statement, edits, discussion.

Commissioner Escalante made a motion to move the discussion to the July meeting

Commissioner Sapper: Second

Ayes: All

Absent: 3

4. Sonoma Developmental Center- Sapper

Report by Alice Horowitz, Eldridge Forum. Remarks, Howard Sapper.

Alice Horowitz gave information about the Sonoma Developmental Center, the property, and the land. She manages a website; eldridgeforall.org with as much information as possible about the land and its future. Her organization requests the support of the Commission on Human Rights.

VII. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

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

1. **Report out on the Strategic Planning Session on May 29, 2022** – Phillips – Chair
Phillips commented on the fact that there was a lot accomplished. Time well spent. Ad Hoc committee write ups need to be turned in by Friday July 1, 2022.
2. **Pride Parade** – Pride Celebration presence. Great energy. Shared information about the commission. Escalante

3. **March for Your Lives** – Escalante – Commissioner Escalante reported that there have been many “March for Your Lives” demonstrations in several cities in the County.

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).

Fiscal Year end is June 30, 2022- please submit any receipts by end of day 6-29-2022.

IX. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING – PHILLIPS

Spotlight Jewish Free Clinic in July

Roe V Wade

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

July 26, 2022

Commission on Human Rights

Guest Speaker

Donna Waldman, M.S., Director, Jewish Community Free Clinic



Donna Waldman was one of the original Jewish Community Free Clinic founders. In addition to her extensive involvement in various local and national non-profit organizations, Ms. Waldman also has more than 40 years of experience as a corporate manager in for profit companies. Fluent in Spanish, Ms. Waldman has been a community organizer since the early 1970's, and has been instrumental in the design and management of several health care and educational organizations. She resides in Sebastopol with her partner Michael and her 12 year old cat Tinue.



Homeless Action! of Sonoma County

467 Sebastopol Ave.

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

June 22, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Press Conference June 15, 2022

HOMELESS IN WINE COUNTRY:

THE PALMS INN – A GOOD PLAN THAT CRASHED AND BURNED

In early May, Santa Rosans were shocked to learn that the County's Permanent Supportive Housing Facility known as the Palms Inn was a serious health hazard to residents due to uncontrolled mold and cockroach infestation. At least one resident required hospitalization. But that was just the tip of the iceberg.

Veteran's case managers have long been concerned about the lack of security infrastructure at a property on a crime-prone stretch of Santa Rosa Avenue. Just a few months after the Palms opened up in May 2016, it was already known that drug dealers were frequenting the property and residents were struggling to stay sober. "People are pushing drugs and alcohol on me, and there's nowhere I can go," said one veteran resident.

On June 15, 2022, Ka Lane Raposa, an exceedingly courageous resident who's been living at the Palms for eight years, brought to light a great deal of new and far more troubling firsthand information depicting deep-seated and unimaginable conditions at the Palms - services promised but not delivered, ailing and terminally ill residents appallingly neglected by staff, open drug use, prostitution and thievery run rampant and all manner of nightlong bacchanalia and mayhem keep residents awake all night long every night. Fear and intimidation reign. In the eight years that the Palms has been operating its 104 units, more than 80 residents have died.

In more than one case, no welfare checks were made by staff on those known to be gravely ill. According to Mr. Raposa, "On Saturday July 30, 2021 the putrefied body of Katherine "Kat" Signoff, a resident here at the Palms, was found slumped against the wall in the far corner of her room three weeks after returning from the hospital. Shortly before her decomposing body was discovered, her neighbor was disturbed by a foul odor coming from Kat's room. It was an odor he instinctively knew was death.

"He notified the staff on duty. Stating his concerns, he asked that a welfare check be done. Staff refused to do so even after the neighbor walked him up to Kat's door where the odor was permeating. The neighbor took it upon himself to call the paramedics. Only then did the staff member open the door so that the Mets could carry out a check.

Based on the condition of the body and rate of decay, the coroner placed the time of death five to seven days prior to her body being discovered. Had those checks been done the last memory of my friend might not be that of a blackened corpse melting down the wall into a gelatinous pool of blood and bodily fluids surrounded by maggots."

Mr. Raposa stressed that he is not intending to be vindictive but rather feels compelled to bring this situation to light in hopes for relief for the suffering community which he loves and is a part.

Below find a link to a You Tube video archive of the June 15 presser as well as the entire June 9 document, "Homeless in Wine Country: The Palms Inn – How a Good Plan

Crashed and Burned" document written by Mr. Raposa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLtGg-GZNUY>

(paste into your browser)

June 9, 2022

HOMELESS IN WINE COUNTRY:

THE PALMS INN - HOW A GOOD PLAN CRASHED AND BURNED

by Ka Lane Raposa

Dear Catholic Charities: If you can see what is true, I pray that you will own whatever part is yours to own. I'm not naive nor living in a perpetual state of victim mentality. This issue isn't one-sided. The unhoused have our fair share of things we need to own as well. I am quick to point this out to the homeless I still work with in my own independent outreach. But perhaps if we could find a way to work together in a more loving, patient, compassionate and understanding way towards reconciliation with an absence of pretense or defense we can all rise together as an example of hope to those who might otherwise have none.

I'm writing this grievance regarding the current state of the Palms Inn in Santa Rosa. I have been a resident here for the past eight years. When I first moved in, the Palms was teeming with life. You could not throw a stone without hitting a staff member or volunteer. It wasn't uncommon to see the media and local politicians here for fundraisers or to see Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities' Chief Programs Officer, walking a group of potential investors through on a tour. A continental breakfast was available daily in the library and at least once a week, sometimes twice, volunteers would come and prepare a hot breakfast for the residents. There were regular activity groups, AA and NA meetings as well as classes and workshops that residents could attend. We had a library/TV room that was open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with WiFi and an amazing selection of books and DVDs that residents could check out for free. There were barbecues and special events. But most important, we had a sense of community.

Although it was still in its infancy stage, the Palms was on its way to becoming one of the most impressive Housing First/Permanent Supportive Housing proof of concept models one could hope for. But then the newness wore off and the media disappeared. As did the local politicians. Gone were the investor tours with Holmes.

Then, one by one key staff members who were as much the heart and soul of this community as the residents began seeking employment elsewhere. In my experience that's usually indicative of internal conflicts with upper management. The volunteers and hot breakfasts faded away. The groups and classes became mere memories. Access to the library, WiFi and DVDs were restricted while the lobby and access to personal mailboxes were limited to two hours a day or on some days not at all.

The Palms Inn began to feel like a ghost town. With the absence of staff and volunteers out and about on the premises, dark elements began creeping in. While Covid-19 has certainly exacerbated matters, all of the aforementioned predate the pandemic. Over three years ago I saw an increase in foot traffic. I

pointed it out to my case manager. He responded by telling me that should be my motivation to move. There was no conversation about making things safe for residents or addressing the issues.

Move. That was his solution. His answer felt indicative of the current case managers' overall sentiments regarding the Palms.

Unfortunately, the Palms is probably as good as it's going to get for people like me. Prior to coming here I had just finished serving 19 years in prison. The nearly 20- year gap in my rental and employment history combined with a poor credit rating and a low, unskilled earning potential preclude me from realistically competing in the housing market in any meaningful way. Even if I could move, I wouldn't want to.

I was 48 years old when I moved into the Palms. It is the first time in my life I have ever lived alone in my own place, had a lease in my name and paid rent regularly. Having been incarcerated for nearly half of my life I have no real history to speak of.

Thus, I am very sentimental about the history I am creating. The Palms represents something very special to me. It's a huge milestone of sorts. Sadly, the Palms I moved into is not the Palms I reside in today.

I don't think people realize how dire the situation has become here or the extent to which the chaos has grown. Fentanyl, methamphetamine and stolen property are easily procured. There is now continuous foot traffic at all hours of the day and night.

From approximately 10 pm until dawn, trespassers control the environment here at the Palms. Politely asking them if they would mind getting high and carrying on their conversation somewhere other than in front of your door is seldom met with an equal measure of politeness or respect. There are arguments down in the parking lot, boyfriends and girlfriends fighting over the last hit of dope and a growing presence of gang members who recently tagged the building.

Theft and prostitution are also running rampant. Fear and intimidation systematically silence people. Catholic Charities staff members have openly admitted that they do not feel safe here after dark. Fortunately for them they get to go home. But this IS my home. I and many others have no place else to go.

Can you imagine what it might feel like to be a single woman or a senior citizen listening to the parade of drug seekers traipsing about all night long or worse, getting loaded right outside your door as you sit and listen on the other side, too afraid to say something to them, too afraid to call police. People yelling and screaming. Angry addicts with unpredictable behavior loitering near your door. Would you want someone you care about living under these conditions? How safe would you feel?

There was a time when a resident could call the front desk to report an intruder or other suspicious activities and staff would respond immediately. We are now directed to call the security company instead. But the security company avails little help to remedy the situation. A two-minute drive through the parking lot once an hour is virtually useless. Personnel rarely, if ever, get out of their vehicles and walk the premises. And when they do drive by trespassers they don't say a word to them. Other trespassers just hide, waiting for them to pass by. Some hang out on the second-floor landing of the middle stairwell where they continually break, steal or untwist the light bulbs to keep it perpetually

dark. On more than one occasion, staff has watched me get into near scuffles with my baseball bat trying to get trespassers off the property. They offered absolutely no support or assistance whatsoever.

When Burbank Housing took over the property management, the politics of that takeover became evident to anyone who was paying attention. It would have been nice to have seen Catholic Charities partner in a coordinated effort with Burbank Housing, the two organizations working in concert to clean up the Palms for the safety and well being of the residents. But rather than increase support, Catholic Charities withdrew support and staff was instructed to stop running trespassers off the property, that it was Burbank's job now, not yours.

When this news got out it spread like wildfire. Now, people walk up here in broad daylight right past staff and engage in activities once relegated to dark shadows and late hours. For my efforts in attempting to keep trespassers from hanging out in front of my door and my 63-year-old female neighbor, I've been accosted twice off property by people that staff should have been confronting, not me. By withdrawing support, not only was our safety jeopardized but our health was as well. Ninety percent of the trespassers came without Covid masks. Staff didn't even bother to address the trespassers on that issue. They let them walk in here without masks and never say a word to them.

Regardless of who was tasked with the actual management of the property, Catholic Charities has maintained its contract to provide services to residents. As such I

would think Catholic Charities would assume at the very least, a moral obligation to help provide a safe and healthy environment for their clients. The irony here is that the VI- SPDAT Vulnerability Assessment has identified each of us as being the most vulnerable among the homeless population but we have been left to fend for ourselves in a dark, isolated part of town amid the very elements you sought to keep us safe from. This problem has been growing for over two years now and has finally reached a critical point. And still, nothing is being done about it. Because Catholic Charities has senior citizen clients residing here, elder abuse allegations would not be difficult to prove. For those under 65, an equally strong argument can be made for reckless endangerment and criminal negligence. By continuing to do nothing, Catholic Charities is by proxy participating in the victimization its own clients.

Over the past three years there has been a growing complacency and neglect of clients at the Palms. In the addendum to this grievance there are examples of some of the incomprehensible actions that Catholic Charities has taken against its clients here and at the drop-in center.

For years, clients have been complaining about the same improprieties and practices but their grievances always seem to fall on deaf ears. Employees are given the benefit of every doubt and clients are systematically discredited. The grievance committee is hardly an impartial panel when it's made up entirely of your own employees. The homeless see all of this. Stories like those in the addendum are passed on through word of mouth throughout the homeless community. The majority of the chronically homeless aren't resistant to services. They are declining services because they are unwilling to repeat the same previous bad experiences they've already had with Catholic Charities.

Rather than owning your part in that experience, the unhoused are branded as 'Resistive to Services' and we end up carrying the water for your inability to provide adequate support and services. That's exactly what is happening here at the Palms.

None of the five core principles of Housing First are functioning here with any measure of consistency and that's provided that they've even existed here at all.

How can this be called Permanent Supportive Housing when clients are summarily evicted without having received any new strategies to help them overcome the issues that lead to their evictions? And to point out the obvious, all of these evictions add to the chronic homelessness in our community making Catholic Charities one of the major contributing factors to the perpetuation of the problem.

There is no recovery orientation present here at all. Without it, addicts are enabled to sit around and get high all day and night with absolutely no consequence for their actions. While Housing First does not put an emphasis on addiction recovery, it does place a strong emphasis on addressing the behaviors that are borne out of addiction because they ultimately contribute to a person's chronic homelessness. There is absolutely no social or community integration. To the contrary, we are warehoused here like ugly unwanted cattle. We are the quintessential example of out of sight, out of mind.

Catholic Charities is running the largest trap house in the county. It is dangerous and unsafe to live here. Catholic Charities has paid a lot of lip service to Housing First and Permanent Supportive Housing and have received the lion's share of public funding to run these two programs but we have yet to see either come to fruition here at the Palms. Without meaningful support and resources, the Palms is nothing more than an indoor encampment. Make no mistake about it, the majority of us here at the Palms are still homeless. Homeless in our thinking and homeless in the way we are living

Case management, or more accurately, the lack thereof, is a primary contributing factor. There are two key components that the case managers here overlook if they're ever acknowledged at all. One is that chronic homelessness doesn't happen overnight. It is a process falling into it and a process coming out of it. Logically, the longer one has been chronically homeless, the longer that process may take.

The other component is that the shared value systems that most people govern their lives by will not keep a person safe and alive on the streets. To the contrary, they will actually turn one into a victim. It therefore becomes imperative that one adopts a value system that is conducive to survival.

Wholesome values such as trust, honesty, kindness, generosity and peaceful conflict resolution are replaced by suspicion, misdirection, hoarding, apathy and violence. Healthy values are abandoned faster than they can be compromised. Living in survival mode induces a constant state of hyper vigilance and seeking the most basic elements in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, most homeless individuals are not even consciously aware of the ongoing changes in their values. But because it's nearly the polar opposite of the rest of the community's standards, the unhoused definitely feel the tension and the conflict as seeds of that "us" and "them" mentality are constantly in play.

Unwanted, shunned, viewed with contempt and disdain as if they were stains on the fabric of the community and defined in some of the most vulgar and insensitive

terms only serves to reinforce that mentality in the homeless and the housed alike. The longer one is chronically homeless the more ingrained this new value system becomes until it is as much of a part of us as our own DNA. After years, and in many cases, decades of living this way, along comes a group of well intended people who want to help you. You're given a warm safe room to live in and a case manager. You are given a set of rules to follow, some structure and tasks you are responsible for.

But the rules, structure and responsibility run counter to the culture you have been living in for so long. And you find yourself struggling as you have yet to receive the resources and support necessary to transition you back into mainstream community living. As a result you begin to receive warnings that turn into write-ups. The next thing you know your case manager is threatening to take away the housing you've just been provided with as a means of leveraging you into compliance even though you don't have the tools to make those changes. Unbeknownst to case management what they have inadvertently done is reinforce your need to hold onto the distorted value system you've been living by.

When your housing is constantly being threatened and that threat is constantly being reinforced and used as leverage, it makes no sense to change the value system that has kept you alive on the streets because for all you know, and according to your case manager, you're on your way back out to the streets anyway. This is one of the most common and most damaging mistakes made in working with the chronically homeless. The problem and the threats are reinforced but not the individual. Using one's housing as leverage also reinforces authority figures as being the enemy as well as reinforcing the "us" and "them" mentality. Locked in this pattern of survival mode thinking will eventually lead to the demise of our housing.

The client/service provider relationship should be a sacred partnership. And it is...as long as we are complying and succeeding. But when we fail, the partnership is severed and the homeless are made to shoulder the failure and shame alone. In most cases, services are suspended or withdrawn entirely when in all actuality they should be increased. I know of no human services philosophy that advocates for the reduction or withdrawal of services when people are struggling the most. Yet this is a recurring policy at Catholic Charities. I'm tired of hearing case managers talk about how many chances an individual was given before they were finally evicted. To provide an individual with an opportunity but not the tools to take advantage of that opportunity is a form of cruelty. It makes about as much sense as prescribing Epicac to stop projectile vomiting.

Counting the number of chances as a means to evict needs to change. What if we applied that thinking to other areas of the health and human services field. Should a dentist withdraw services from a patient after their third cavity? They have, after all, been given three chances to practice better oral hygiene. Or should a psychiatrist turn a patient away from further sessions after his or her patient's second suicide attempt?

They've been given two chances to get over their depression and learn to love life. When applied to other areas of health and human services that maxim seems ridiculous, doesn't it? But it's used regularly by case managers.

Without even looking at their case notes I can almost guarantee that all those who have been evicted from the Palms were not given the benefit of every

resource available nor the support they needed to maintain their housing. The eviction alone is evident of that. More likely than not they received a number of warnings and write-ups rather than resources and support. And in that way Catholic Charities is running the exact same program they have always run: using threats and punitive measures as a means to coerce clients into compliance rather than providing them with the tools, support, services and ever evolving strategies to help even the most challenging of residents retain their housing

No one comes to the Palms on a winning streak. By the time we get here we are usually beaten down from the inside out. We are coming from a subculture with very little structure and very few rules, suffering from post traumatic stress disorder and an alphabet soup of mental health issues, addiction issues, sleep deprivation and malnourishment. As is done with soldiers coming home from battle, we need to be debriefed, asked if we would like to talk about our experiences out there.

Have you ever considered that most of us need to be resocialized? Some of us need to be retaught basic hygiene and appropriate social cues. Providing a roof over our heads doesn't magically restore everything back to normal. As stated earlier and feel I need to reiterate here because it bears repeating: Chronic homelessness doesn't happen overnight. It's a process going into it. It's an even harder process coming out of it. That's not to say that while we're trying to climb out of it that we shouldn't be held accountable or responsible for our actions. Let's just be certain that everyone is operating under the same ground rules. One's sense of accountability and responsibility are generally drawn from their value system. If that value system is dramatically different from yours, confusion reigns.

Case managers are quick to hold clients accountable and levy consequences when a client is not fulfilling their obligations and agreements with the program. But who holds Catholic Charities accountable when they fail to meet their responsibilities to their clients? Who holds your organization accountable for over promising and under delivering services? Who holds your organization accountable for countless evictions of clients who were never given the support and services needed to beat eviction?

What about the millions and millions of dollars and all the lip service paid to Housing First and Permanent Supportive Housing? If we were to subtract all the evictions made from all the housing successes claimed I can only imagine it would paint an entirely different picture of Catholic Charities' effectiveness in helping the homeless. Some of the practices they engage in drive many of the homeless away from services. In that way, Catholic Charities is contributing as much to homelessness in our community as they are battling it.

Most people won't even consider this notion because it seems inconceivable and yet there is abundant evidence in the stories the homeless carry, in the dated strategies employed and the questionable practices Catholic Charities still uses. It's such a huge dichotomy that the largest organization committed to helping the homeless is so out of touch with the population they mean to serve that no one can suspend their disbelief long enough to even consider the truth of the matter.

While it is true that most of us here at the Palms have existed in the narrow margins of society, that certainly doesn't mean we deserve to have our lives disrespected and marginalized. No single one of us can predict with any degree of reliability all the variables in our lives. For the homeless those variables are stacked against us. Perhaps this is how we learn to pray but not for outcomes which meet our own small needs but rather for outcomes which fit a much larger design. One that brings us closer together as one human family under the care and direction of one loving Creator. This grievance is my prayer. It's my prayer that Catholic Charities may gather up enough honesty and intestinal fortitude to suspend disbelief long enough to consider that there may be things they're doing that are actually adding to the harm of an already damaged group of people.

If Catholic Charities can see what is true, I would hope that the organization will own whatever part is theirs to own. I'm not naive nor living in a perpetual state of victim mentality that many of the homeless

have fallen into. This issue isn't one- sided. We have our fair share of things we need to own as well. I am quick to point this out to the

homeless I still work with in my own independent outreach. But perhaps if we could find a way to work together in a more loving, patient, compassionate and understanding way towards reconciliation with an absence of pretense or defense we can all rise together as an example of hope to those who might otherwise have none.

THE PALMS INN ADDENDUM: THE GRUESOME TRUTH

'More than 80 Palms residents have died since the inception of this program.

That's over half the population.

On average, one Palms resident dies every 27 ½ days"

On Saturday July 30, 2021 the putrefied body of Katherine "Kat" Zaganoff, a resident here at the Palms, was found slumped against the wall in the far corner of her room. Shortly before her decomposing body was discovered, her neighbor was disturbed by a foul odor coming from Kat's room. It was an odor he instinctively knew was death.

He notified the staff on duty. Stating his concerns, he asked that a welfare check be done. Staff refused to do so even after the neighbor walked him up to Kat's door where the odor was permeating. The neighbor took it upon himself to call the paramedics. Only then did the staff member open the door so that the EMTs could carry out a check.

Based on the condition of the body and rate of decay, the coroner placed the time of death five to seven days prior to her body being discovered.

Two years ago, the badly decomposed body of another Palms resident who had died from Stage 4 liver cancer was discovered. The coroner estimated that the individual had been deceased for approximately two weeks. So long, in fact, that the smell was attracting vultures but not Palms staff. In both instances HazMat teams had to be called in to handle the cleanup.

On August 9, 2021, a resident saw through a small slit in the curtain that Larry Weaver, a paraplegic veteran, had fallen out of his wheelchair and was motionless on the floor. As I came down the staircase I saw a staff member knocking on Larry's door stating, "Larry, I need you to answer me or I'm going have to come in to make sure you're alright." I left before the matter was resolved but all witness accounts concurred that the staff member never actually entered the unit. The next afternoon Larry Weaver was found dead in his room.

According to several reliable residents who have been keeping track of the number of deceased individuals here at the Palms, more than 80 people have died since the inception of this program. That's over half the population. On average, one resident dies at the Palms every 27 ½ days. Some of these deaths can be attributed to natural causes while others were the result of pre-existing medical conditions. Some were drug related. Catholic Charities' claims that those who didn't die of the

aforementioned died from the shock of no longer being homeless. That is, however, a cynical opinion at best, with no empirical evidence to support it. The high mortality rate coupled with an incredibly high eviction rate suggests that the residents are not receiving the support and resources they need and that their needs are grossly neglected.

Kat Zaganoff is but one of many examples. Approximately two weeks prior to her death Kat had been released from the hospital after a 15-day stay. A Palms neighbor discovered that Kat had been bedridden for almost three weeks. Gaunt and emaciated, she had lost 50 pounds and was lying in urine-soiled sheets with feces dried to her body like chunks of cement. The smell was so foul that the neighbor could not bear to enter the room. She immediately called the paramedics and informed staff that Kat was being taken to the hospital. Several days after she was admitted, Kat called her neighbor and thanked her for saving her life. Her doctor said that without the neighbor's intervention, she would have died within 24 hours.

Exacerbated by chronic substance abuse and alcoholism, Kat's failing health was not a secret to anyone. With three clogged heart valves, Kat rarely left her apartment as negotiating the second floor stairs was a Herculean task often too difficult for her to undertake. Given the state of her failing health, any reasonable service provider would have checked on Kat regularly. It seems inconceivable that Kat's case manager was completely unaware that her client had been upstairs in her room slowly dying for three weeks. Yet, that is the truth.

In both instances no checks were ever done on her. Not even in death with the smell of a rotting corpse coming from her room was a welfare check even once done by any of the Palms staff. It would be unfair to speculate whether Kat would still be alive if regular checks had been conducted. What I do know is this: Due to the weakened state Kat was in when she returned from the hospital, daily welfare checks should have been done on her until she regained her strength and was able to call for help on her own if she needed to. Had those checks been done the last memory of my friend might not be

that of a blackened corpse melting down the wall into a gelatinous pool of blood and bodily fluids surrounded by maggots.

With the death of the male resident with Stage 4 liver cancer, the coroner placed the time of death at two to three weeks prior to the discovery of his badly decomposed corpse. This is not speculation but rather a matter of fact: For three weeks, not a single welfare check was performed on a terminally ill cancer patient by the Palms staff.

Susan Boyd is another example of Catholic Charities failing to provide the support and resources necessary to keep her in housing. Susan is a chronically homeless woman diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. She is highly functional when she is taking her medication. She is not, however, well enough to self administer her meds with any measure of consistency. Homelessness compounded the issue as her medication was constantly being stolen from her. When she is off her meds she is prone to psychotic episodes of wandering aimlessly and screaming in a very deep Satanic-like voice at an unseen person or persons. She can literally scream for hours in episodes that I've seen last for several days.

The manager at the time did not feel that the Palms was an appropriate placement for Susan, that she would not have access to the kind of care and support she needed. She was, however, placed here and Susan and the staff enjoyed a great honeymoon period. But after the honeymoon was over, it got back

to business as usual and Susan became just another resident and the psychotic episodes began. Adding to the issue were the resident drug dealers who preyed on Susan's vulnerability, feeding her methamphetamine on fronts and collecting money from her whenever she had it.

For the first two or three psychotic episodes, staff intervened as best as they could. But for these types of episodes and with no contingency plans in place, the staff was at a loss as to how to help her. After the third or fourth episode the staff just ignored the screaming. Sequestered in their office, they didn't have to listen to the screaming all day... or at 4 a.m. But the residents did. It wasn't fair to any of us. It certainly wasn't fair to Susan.

This was a woman in the midst of a psychotic break requiring professional attention. She landed in Psych Services a few times to be stabilized. Each time she was stabilized she was returned to the exact same level of minimal care that precipitated

the episodes in the first place. On her last trip to Psych Services, while being hospitalized, she was evicted. When she was released from the hospital she had come full circle to where her journey began. Susan was once again in the nightmare of street

level homelessness even though her VI-SPDAT score placed her as one of the most vulnerable among the homeless population.

Had an agency been contracted to provide an RN or LVN to administer Susan's medication daily, contingency plans could have been made to help manage her psychotic episodes. A partnership with Buckalew or a similar organization to expand resources and support for Susan, might have given her a fighting chance at a relatively stable life. With Buckalew, she would have had a day program to support and engage her if she so desired along with access to a food pantry of items she could bring back to her unit. However, none of these resources were made available to her. It should not have come as a surprise to anyone that Susan Boyd was not successful at the Palms. As Catholic Charities failed to provide Susan with even minimal support with standard resources, she was forced to shoulder that failure all alone.

In most cases, when a client's needs are neglected and adequate services are not provided, the effect it has on the community as a whole can be subtle. But there are some instances, such as gruesome deaths and Susan's psychosis, where the impact is huge and weighs heavily on the community. But still, nothing is being done to remedy the situation.

Hoarding is another issue that is seldom addressed. This disorder is prevalent among many of the chronically homeless. There are many cases of it here at the Palms. Some of the residents' rooms are uninhabitable with garbage, spoiled food and an excess of all manner of stuff strewn about. The consequence is the severe roach infestation that has affected all the residents at the Palms.

While an effort is made to have somewhat regular extermination, only a symptom, or rather, a consequence of the problem is addressed rather than the problem itself. While case management cannot be held responsible for the roach infestation, they contribute greatly to it by doing nothing meaningful to help their clients resolve their hoarding disorders. Further, what kind of case management is being practiced that provides for clients to live in absolute squalor and filth? Some people are living in subhuman conditions in rooms that may very well be condemned if the health inspector were to examine them. It is both cruel and inhumane to have human beings living in such

conditions without help or support and yet they are. Once again, for the residents over 65, a representative of Adult Protective Services calls this elder abuse.

In the eight years I've lived here I've seen countless improprieties and questionable actions but some remain completely incomprehensible to me.

A widow was made homeless by Catholic Charities the very same day that her partner died. Before he died, the tenant asked his case manager to put his partner of 14 years on his lease. She had already been living here with him for two years. However, the manager subsequently told the grieving widow that she had been unable to connect with him before he died despite the fact that he had been in the room for at least two weeks prior to his death. The traumatized widow was forced to vacate the property and kept out for weeks.

The name Joseph Ajepong may not be familiar but many Santa Rosans know who he is. For years, Joseph was a fixture on the bench in front of Peet's Coffee on 4th St. A homeless African immigrant and musician, Joseph took up residency on that bench and played music for passersby to support himself. However, his growing collection of property stashed between the redwood trees behind the bench became a source of irritation to the local merchants. Numerous complaints about his collection of property were made to SRPD. They contacted Catholic Charities HOST Outreach Team and asked them to intervene to get Joseph services and into the shelter system. If he didn't comply, they would begin issuing citations that would eventually turn into warrants for which he would be arrested and lose all of his property.

A member of HOST staged an intervention with Joseph. He agreed to go to Sam Jones shelter and to put his stuff in storage. A budget for Joseph to save tips in order to cover storage costs was devised. The plan sailed along for four months but Joseph couldn't meet his goal in the fifth. The HOST supervisor said to cut him loose. He was cycled out of Sam Jones but by then his equipment had been auctioned off and he was left with no means to make a living.

Tesla Dakota Trippo had been chronically homeless for years and preferred the perils of homelessness over dealing with the improprieties of Catholic Charities. Finally convinced to give it another try she signed up for services and a VI-SPDAT was administered. She scored in the top tenth of the most vulnerable. She was told that she would be placed in HOST's next presentation to the Palms for immediate placement.

Soon thereafter, it was rumored but never substantiated that Tesla was selling drugs. The HOST worker unilaterally terminated Ms. Trippo's status for placement. She was never informed of the cancellation and four months later, she learned from a friend what had happened.

I still shudder when I think of one of my own experiences with Catholic Charities. Two years ago I was informed by my former case manager that I was about to lose my

Section 8 voucher because I had not recertified in time. He said there was nothing he could do to help me and that I should sit down with him and form an exit strategy. Part of that strategy was to get myself on the waiting list for a bed at Sam Jones. I rejected his suggestion outright and took matters into my own hands. I contacted my new worker at Burbank housing and explained the situation and the

extenuating circumstances that had placed me there. My worker was so understanding and accommodating and the process so easy that it made me wonder if my former case manager had even advocated for me at all. Had I listened to him and followed his suggestions I would have been homeless again

Stories such as these and countless others circulate continuously among the homeless community. These issues are not exclusive to the Palms. They reach all the way back to the Catholic Charities drop-in center on Morgan Street and with HOST, where the journey towards housing is supposed to begin. In their own way, HOST is another major contributing factor to our community's homeless crisis. For years the homeless have been complaining and grieving about the improprieties and actions of this street outreach team but grievances continually fall on deaf ears. Staff is given the benefit of every doubt. The homeless never are. Rather, they're often discredited with character assassinations and quickly find themselves on an unwritten blacklist,

For years, Devin Stoddard ran the waiting list for Sam Jones with an iron fist. If you curried favor with her and HOST you were given the velvet glove treatment. If not, you generally found yourself pushed to the back of the line. Once a person gets blacklisted, they typically find themselves written up for the smallest of infractions and services are suspended. Even for major rule violations I have never understood the philosophy of reducing services rather than increasing them. When clients act out they are essentially giving their worker a blueprint of the issues that need to be addressed immediately. But rather than increase support to address those issues, support is withdrawn completely. No one can get well when treatment is withheld. If they did they wouldn't be repeating the behaviors that lead to their suspension of services.

For years the chronically homeless have unjustly been blamed and have carried the water for the ineffectiveness of Catholic Charities. While clients are held tightly accountable for their actions, nobody holds Catholic Charities accountable for over promising and under delivering services. Catholic Charities isn't held accountable for wrongful evictions or for accepting federal grants for programs that are never brought to fruition. Have you ever stopped to ask yourselves "What does it say about our

organization when there are people who would rather risk the dangers of living on the streets than accept our services?" Or do you instead continue to blame the homeless while branding them as "Resistant to Services"?

The biggest irony to me is that for all the good work you do in the community to address homelessness, where the chronically homeless are concerned, Catholic Charities is one of the largest contributors to perpetuating the problem. Through evictions and practices that alienate people from accepting services, Catholic Charities actually contributes as much to creating homelessness as it does to ending it. I can't help but wonder how successful your organization would look if you subtracted the number of clients you have evicted from the number of clients you've housed. In all likelihood it would paint a very different picture of your effectiveness in aiding the homeless.

If you continue to evict clients rather than giving them the support and resources they need to maintain their housing conversations, the goal of Functional Zero will be akin to that of griffins and unicorns. Then again, from a business perspective, achieving Functional Zero in this community really isn't in your best interests. Not when you receive federal funding to house people under the guise of Housing First and

Permanent Supportive Housing and grant money to run the shelter which they end up in after you evict them. It is an insidious but brilliant business model with the homeless ultimately paying the price.

As you grow closer to the opening of your shiny new Caritas Village facility on A Street, what will become of us here at the Palms? You never finished what you started here. But with all the attention and energy focused on staffing and opening the new facility it stands to reason that we will lose the few resources and support that we have left here at the Palms, leaving us to feel like crash test dummies for your new program.

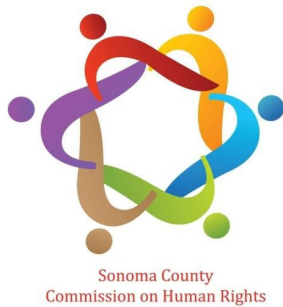
Respectfully Submitted,

D. Ka Lane Raposa, Author

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Press Contact: Kathleen Finigan: 707 480 6201

gofinniego@gmail.com



SONOMA COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary purpose of the County of Sonoma Commission on Human Rights is to provide leadership, guidance and assistance in assuring that all members of our community - especially among us who are marginalized or disadvantaged – may enjoy the full range of human rights to which every person is entitled.

The Commission's role is to educate our community in knowing their rights and to serve as active advocates for any whose rights are being violated.

Our goal is to promote better human relations among all residents of Sonoma County by fostering the recognition and appreciation for the vibrant diversity of our community.

In the fulfillment of our mission, we are committed to:

Creating awareness of human rights issues faced by members of our communities; working in partnership with community organizations and County agencies by means of media campaigns, educational programs and training;

Advocating for policy changes necessary to better protect human rights at the local, state, and federal levels by investigating issues raised by our community; commenting on and, where appropriate, drafting policies for consideration by lawmakers and/or regulatory bodies, and regularly reporting to the Board of Supervisors on the state of human rights in the County.

Responding to, and advancing concerns raised by members of our community by making referrals to appropriate support resources; investigating the extent to

which individual complaints reflect broader human rights issues in the County, and bringing attention to human rights issues of concern to County residents.

Key to the success of the Commission in successfully achieving its mission will be the development of consistent and credible working relationships with key members of the community, including policy makers, policy enforcement, the media, community organizations, and the general public.

The County of Sonoma Commission on Human Rights (CHR) was established in 1993 to promote better human relations between all people in Sonoma County. We are advisors to the Board of Supervisors on areas that impact the human rights of members of our community.

The basis for our work is the International Declaration of Human Rights established by the United Nations in 1948. It comprises the worldwide standard of Human Rights for all people on earth.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages. The UDHR is widely recognized as having inspired, and paved the way for, the adoption of more than seventy human rights treaties, applied today on a permanent basis at global and regional levels (all containing references to it in their preambles).

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal

rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

RAISE THE ROOF FESTIVAL

BENEFITING THE **PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER** OF SONOMA COUNTY

MOMOTOMBO SF (WITH FORMER MEMBERS OF MALO & SANTANA)
MIDNIGHT SUN • THUGZ (TRIBAL HIPPIE UNDER GROUND ZONE)
UN AMOUR BAND • BEN ROOTS • DJ LOISAIDA



SAT. AUGUST 13, 2022

12-8PM • MONTE RIO AMPHITHEATER • 9925 MAIN STREET, MONTE RIO, CA
\$50 ADV/\$60 DOS • TICKETS AVAILABLE ON [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com)

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poster by **KATIE KINCAIDE**



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER of SONOMA COUNTY
467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
www.pjcsoco.org

July 2022

Greetings,

The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County has been serving the community for nearly 40 years. We remain committed to our Mission: *to inform, support and energize the Sonoma County community to create peace and social justice through active nonviolence*. Our building needs a new roof. We have been able to postpone this necessary repair for as long as possible with contractors and roofers making patches to the roof every year.

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Shekeyna Black

**Administrative Assistant &
DEI Advocate**

MaDonna Feather Cruz

The **Raise The Roof Festival** benefiting the Peace & Justice Center is taking place on Saturday, August 13 at the Monte Rio Amphitheatre. The music festival is a fun way to fundraise for the roof replacement project while giving people the opportunity to enjoy World-Class entertainment outdoors on the spacious lawn of the venue. The Headliner is MOMOTOMBO SF with former members of Malo & Santana. (Note: Malo celebrates 50 years of being a band in 2022.)

We are seeking Vendors to participate in this Special Event.

Vendors need to supply 2 chairs and a table.

We will link your website on our Social Media, website and eblasts.

Nonprofits = \$100

Crafts People = \$100

For Profit Businesses = \$250

Venue: Monte Rio Amphitheater – 9925 Main St. Monte Rio, CA

Date/Time: Saturday, August 13, 2022 from noon - 8pm

Vendors can set-up at 11am and can teardown starting at 6pm so you can enjoy the headliner.

To learn more about the Peace & Justice Center and the Raise The Roof Festival, visit our website, www.pjccoco.org

Thank you for your heartfelt support!

Kind regards,

Shekeyna Black

Executive Director

Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County

The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County is an affiliate of The Fellowship of Reconciliation