Agenda
County of Sonoma
Commission on Human Rights – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 5:30PM Hybrid

First District: Howard Sapper, Daniel H Sohn
Second District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair), Rob Izzo
Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Liz Cruz Reyes (Officer-at-Large), Angie Avalos Cendejas
Fourth District: Irmina Benson, Cecilia Sofranko (Officer-at-Large)
Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, Nick Thayer, Susan Hirsch

Meeting Information:
The January 27, 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=UUlSNllDQkUvTitzTWQ5bnNkL2NBUT09
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:

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 Human Rights meetings will be facilitated using a dual format with listening and participation available through Zoom and in person.

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@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. Youth Commission Presentations

The Education and Environmental Ad Hoc groups of the Youth Commission present their projects to the Commission.

III. Consent Items– Phillips

1. Approval of the November 25, 2025, meeting minutes.

IV. Openings and appointments– Phillips

1. Welcome Rob Izzo and complete their oath of office.
2. Potentially welcome David Escobar and complete their oath of office.
3. Openings – one (1) in the First District, one (1) in the Second District, and one (1) in the Fourth District.

V. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items – Phillips

Public comment is limited to **two** minutes per topic or **four** minutes when using interpretation services.

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. The CHR festive gathering will take place in April; the exact date is to be determined.
2. 2026-2027 CHR Work Plan

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).

1. 1–2-month Project- Universal Declaration Human Rights on Incarcerated Person
2. Collaborative Response Team Ad Hoc- Sonoma County Human Rights Summit
3. Community Care Commission
4. Disability Justice
5. Environmental Rights
6. Sonoma County Human Rights Visibility Project 2.0
7. Youth Commission on Human Rights

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

1. **Black History Month Resolution-** Phillips
   Review and approve the resolution to be presented at the February 10, 2026, Board of Supervisors' meeting.

2. **Work Plan and Budget Approvals-** Phillips
   i. Sonoma County Human Rights Summit work plan
   ii. Community Care Commission Ad Hocs work plan
   iii. West Sonoma County Health Center and Community Services Soup and Community Project work plan

3. **Community Spotlight Resolution-**Phillips

Approve a resolution to honor Sylvie V De La Cruz, Regional Director Substance Use Services, Sonoma County at Buckelew Programs for February community spotlight.

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

X. Adjournment

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

Tuesday, November 25, 2025	**5:30PM**	**Hybrid**

Commissioners Present:
First District: Howard Sapper, Daniel H. Sohn
Second District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)
Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Liz Cruz Reyes (Officer-at-Large), Angie Avalos Cendejas
Fourth District: Cecilia Sofranko (Officer-at-Large)
Fifth District: Nick Thayer*, Susan Hirsch**

Commissioners Absent:
Second District: Rob Izzo
Fourth District: Irmina Benson
Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina

* Commissioner Thayer attended via Zoom per AB2449.
** Commissioner Hirsch arrived late at 5:37pm.

Meeting held virtually and in person.

I. Call To Order – Mission Statement – Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:35PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement. Roll call taken by Staff Support.

II. Consent Items

1. Approval of the October 28, 2025, meeting minutes.

   Motion to approve the October 28, 2025, meeting minutes.

   No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Warwick	Ayes: 6	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sapper	Absent: 3	Abstained: 3

   Commissioners Izzo, Benson and Burcina were absent. Commissioners Sohn and Avalos Cendejas abstained. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Approval of the November 6, 2025, special meeting minutes.

   Motion to approve the November 6, 2025, special meeting minutes

   No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Cruz Reyes	Ayes: 6	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sofranko	Absent: 3	Abstained: 4

Commissioners Izzo, Benson and Burcina were absent. Commissioners Sohn, Sapper, and Warwick abstained. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. Openings and appointments

Chair Phillips welcomed Commissioner Avalos Cendejas, who then introduced herself and shared background information. Chair Phillips announced openings: one in the First District, one in the Second District, and one in the Fourth District.

IV. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

Public Comment:

- Nancy Pemberton

V. Officer Reports and Administrative Updates

1. Chair Phillips reminded everyone that on December 9th at 1:30pm, CHR will accept the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Resolution at the Board of Supervisors Meeting.
2. Chair Phillips announced that CHR will not have a meeting on December 23, 2025 and that a holiday gathering will be in January or April- Volunteer Appreciation Month. More to come on the holiday gathering.

VI. Regular Calendar

1. Commissioner Sofranko led the food insecurity statement discussion by reading the statement and reviewing the content. Commissioner Thayer recommended to highlight the Ag Innovations study from Human Services Department. From this recommendation, the Commission added two bullet points to the statement:

    - Increased funding appropriate to the population affected in Sonoma County
    - Adopt and implement findings from the AG Innovation study to lead and collaboratively develop a consistent and sustainable framework for food distribution

    Motion to approve the statement with the two added bullet points.

    No Public Comment

    Motion: Commissioner Sohn Ayes: 8 Noes: 0
    Second: Commissioner Sapper Absent: 3 Abstained: 1
    Commissioners Izzo, Benson and Burcina were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Commissioner Cruz Reyes and Vice Chair Warwick led the discussion on the law enforcement oversight and accountability statement by reading it first and answering questions. The Commission took public comment and Jim Duffy recommended to add “unwarranted” before surveillance on point 3. Commissioner Sofranko suggested to delete the word “always” at the end of the first paragraph.

Motion to approve the statement with the 2 suggested edits: deleting the word "always" and adding the word "unwarranted."

Public Comment:

- Jim Duffy
- Nancy Pemberton

Motion: Commissioner Sohn	Ayes: 8	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sofranko	Absent: 3	Abstained: 1

Commissioners Izzo, Benson and Burcina were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

3. Chair Phillips led the discussion on the action statement addressing federal cutbacks. The Commission had questions on who is impacting from this. Chair Phillips clarified that anything being funded will be transitional housing and permanent housing will be lost. The housing authority is getting reassurance from the governor's office that they weren't going to let that happen, and let people lose their housing, but there is a lot of uncertainty. The Board of Supervisor has the authority to reallocate the funds from Measure O and provided more funding from General Fund. The following edits were made:
    - Change 2019 to 2020
    - Change 250 to 500
    - Spell out BOS in the second paragraph
    - Add $ in front of 450 and capitalize the m after it
    - Correct the spelling on Joe Rodota Trail and add "when thousands of residents raised tent city and then forcibly displaced, let that be seen now"
    - Change Chair of CHR to we

    Motion to approve the statement with the suggested edits.

    No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sohn	Ayes: 7	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sapper	Absent: 3	Abstained: 2

    Commissioners Izzo, Benson and Burcina were absent. Commissioner Sofranko abstained. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

VII. Additional Agenda Items for The Next Commission Meeting

1. Ad hoc updates and new work plan approvals.
2. Land Acknowledgement Discussion

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights Proclaims February 2026 as Black History Month

Whereas, Black History Month is the celebration of the African Diaspora observed by the United States, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Jamaica; and

Whereas, the precursor to Black History Month originally began in 1926 as Negro History Week, created by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) marking the 100-year anniversary this year; and

Whereas, Woodson wrote, “If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated;” and

Whereas, some agencies presently seek to erase Black History, Black Accomplishments, Black Creativity and Black Lives; and

Whereas, Sonoma County has continued to Celebrate and Honor Black History Month; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Commission on Human Rights will preserve and uphold the acknowledgment of Black History Month in Sonoma County.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – WORK PLAN TEMPLATE

Name of the ad hoc: Community Care Commission

Description of the project/ ad hoc: An ad hoc with the mission to collaborate on an event with our local Health Services Department (or similar health-focused group). The event's objectives are to bring together Sonoma County community members, and motivate them to take steps toward preventing illness in themselves and others. Attendees will receive important facts, empowerment to take achievable steps, and supplies such as masks and hand sanitizer.

Ad Hoc committee members: Cecilia Sofranko, Liz Cruz-Reyes, Irmina Benson

Budget: $750

TIMELINE/ DATE	OBJECTIVE/GOAL	ACTIONS	ASSIGNED TO	BUDGET
FALL 2025	Continue to distribute masks & any other available supplies to local businesses & organizations	Contact local businesses, arrange drop-offs	Cecilia Sofranko	$0
WINTER 2025	Schedule and/or host Town Hall or similar community-oriented event with speakers and health supplies	Organize with Health Department, contact & book speakers	Cecilia Sofranko, Liz Cruz-Reyes, Irmina Benson	$750
SPRING 2026	Continue to distribute masks & any other available supplies to local businesses & organizations	Contact local businesses, arrange drop-offs	Cecilia Sofranko	$0
SUMMER 2026	Continue to distribute masks & any other available supplies to local businesses & organizations	Contact local businesses, arrange drop-offs	Cecilia Sofranko	$0

Sonoma County Human Rights Summit

Strategic Work Plan, Program & Budget

Convened by:
Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

In Partnership With:
Sonoma County Human Rights Youth Commission

Tagline:
Visibility. Access. Action.

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The first-ever Sonoma County Human Rights Summit marks a historic moment for Sonoma County—bringing together community members, advocates, legal experts, cultural leaders, youth leaders, and service providers for a full day dedicated to advancing human rights through education, access, and collective action.

This inaugural Summit is intentionally designed as a visible, welcoming, and community-centered space where human rights move beyond theory and into lived experience. Through guest speakers, immigration and civil rights legal clinics, cultural performances, a Youth & Human Rights Panel, and a partner resource expo, the Summit connects people directly with information, services, and one another.

WHY THIS SUMMIT MATTERS

Human rights challenges touch every part of community life—from immigration and housing to education, public safety, and economic opportunity. While the Commission works year-round to advise, educate, and advocate on these issues, its work is often not widely visible to the public.

The Summit creates a public-facing platform that:
• Elevates awareness of human rights as local, practical, and actionable
• Builds trust and transparency between the community and civic institutions
• Centers dignity, inclusion, and lived experience
• Strengthens collaboration across organizations and sectors
• Amplifies youth leadership and intergenerational dialogue

THE GOAL OF THE SUMMIT

The goal of the first-ever Sonoma County Human Rights Summit is to establish a lasting annual convening that:
• Increases visibility of the Commission and its work
• Provides direct access to immigration and civil rights resources
• Elevates youth voices through the Sonoma County Human Rights Youth Commission

• Amplifies community voices through dialogue and cultural expression
• Strengthens partnerships countywide
• Creates a scalable model that grows in impact each year

LOOKING AHEAD

This inaugural Summit serves as the foundation for a long-term vision—one where Sonoma County hosts a trusted, inclusive, and action-oriented Human Rights Summit year after year, reflecting the values, diversity, and resilience of its communities.

Human rights belong to everyone—and protecting them is a shared responsibility.

SUMMIT OVERVIEW

Format: One-Day Community Summit
Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Cost to Attend: Free
Target Attendance: 75–150 community members

PROGRAM AGENDA

10:00 – 10:20 AM | Opening & Welcome
10:20 – 11:15 AM | Featured Human Rights Panel
11:15 – 12:00 PM | Youth & Human Rights Panel
12:00 – 1:30 PM | Immigration & Civil Rights Law Clinic + Resource Expo
1:30 – 2:15 PM | Cultural Performances
2:15 – 3:30 PM | Workshops & Mini-Panels
3:30 – 4:00 PM | Closing & Call to Action

FULL BUDGET (TOTAL: $1,500)

Venue & Core Logistics: $0–$250
Food & Refreshments: $450
Speaker & Performer Support: $350
Marketing & Visibility: $250
Clinic & Resource Expo Support: $200

West Sonoma County Health Center and Community Services Soup and Community Project

In Partnership With:
West Sonoma County Health Services, West Sonoma County Community Services, River to Coast Children's Services, West County Schools, and West County Caterers and Restaurants

Tagline:
Food and Community. Project 100. Food Insecurity. Community Health and Wellness.

ABOUT THE PROJECT AND COLLABORATION

This project is a merger of ideas circling the central idea that a community knows best what the community needs for it to be healthy. West County Health Services initiated Project 100 which was a collaborative program about the best ways to support a new baby's first 100 days of life. This project has blossomed into how a community identify needs and find the most compassionate and professional responses.

I came on board by posting on Facebook a desire to make and serve 100 cups of organic fresh delicious soup to the community monthly and for free. I then found myself in the middle of discussions about extending Project 100 to include cooking for community, community cooking, shared meals, information and educational gatherings, healthy food distribution, and local business participation. I aim to continue exploring how I might support and participate in the extended Project 100 plans by making soup for the community, cooking with the community, and supporting a growing coalition of community healthy food advocates. I would like to do this as a representative of Sonoma County Human Rights Commission.

WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

The lower Russian River has traditionally been a community with a high percentage of food and housing insecurity, health and wellness challenges, and limited access to critical resources. The local supermarket Safeway that has been in Guerneville since 1961 charges higher prices for food than Santa Rosa Safeway and has limited fresh and heathy foods. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that 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. The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights does critical and necessary work to both draw attention to human rights violations as well as to endorse and support projects that dignify and uphold these rights for everyone.

The Project aims to:

- Increase ways to feed the community healthy and delicious food
- Increase access to healthy foods both prepared and fresh by engaging local farmers, vendors, and businesses.
- Grow access to decision making so that programs and projects represent the community's needs.
- Align projects and events with professional health workers and community advocates

THE GOAL OF THIS PROJECT…not yet fully determined.

County of Sonoma
Commission on Human Rights

Sylvie V De La Cruz
Regional Director of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) of Buckelew as Champion of Human Rights

Whereas, Sylvie V De La Cruz, Regional Director of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) of Buckelew, had been in the treatment and recovery field for over 20 years in Sonoma County, and

Whereas, Sylvie V De La Cruz, as an alumni of Athena House, became a champion in 2022 in reopening Athena House and continuing operations at Hope Village, a sober housing organization with Buckelew that provides women and non-binary individuals transitioning from addiction treatment facilities, concentrating on goals of “sobriety, stability and parent-child reunification”; and

Whereas, Sylvie V De La Cruz has created six sober living houses for women and women with children to further the enhancement of life skills, sobriety, employment and the bonds between mother and child; and

Whereas, Sylvie V De La Cruz has helped over 1200 women regain their lives through sobriety.

Therefore Now, let it be seen and known that the Sonoma County Commission on Human rights recognizes Sylvie as a Hero of Human Rights.