



# Alameda County Human Relations Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes



*Wednesday, April 22, 2026 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.*

### **Attendance by Commission Members:**

#### Present:

- Shamsa Rafay, Chairperson – District 2
- Loc Nguyen, Vice Chair – District 1
- Anita Battle, Secretary/Treasurer – District 3
- Liliana Blanco, Member at Large – District 3
- Tejinder Dhani (TJ) – District 1
- Marie Gilmore – District 1

#### Absent:

- Rayna Lett – District 3
- Smile Dhir – District 2
- Miguel Dwin – District 5
- Prem Pariyar – District 5

# Meeting Minutes

## 1. Opening and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

## 2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Motion to Approve Minutes:** Commissioner Anita

**Second:** Commissioner Liliana

**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously

## 3. Commission Announcements and Updates

- Commissioners Shamsa, Loc, and Anita provided feedback regarding their attendance at the April Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame Awards event.
  - Commissioners Shamsa and Loc shared positive feedback regarding the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame event, noting that it was well organized and well attended by agencies, commissioners, and public servants. Commissioner Anita also highlighted a presentation by Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate Anika Mangla, who shared a poem during the event.
  - Commissioner Anita concurred with the comments provided and suggested that the Commission may gain greater visibility at future events by allocating budgeted funds toward donating an auction item in addition to purchasing a limited number of event tickets. Examples of auction items observed at the event included airline tickets, sports tickets, dining packages, and themed gift baskets. Commissioner Anita also noted that the large attendance, limited space, and absence of agency identification on name badges made networking and engagement more difficult.
- Social Services Agency staff reminded commissioners that the Commission’s proposed budget had been submitted and was awaiting final approval.
- Staff noted that all Commission budget requests would be reviewed and approved concurrently.
- It was further noted that budget allocations remain contingent upon approval of the FY 2026–2027 State budget.
- Staff provided an update that the order for Commission logo items is currently in queue for processing, and that fulfillment may be delayed due to a higher-priority order currently being completed.

- Discussion regarding scholarships for students or nonprofit organizations remained inconclusive due to conflicting information received.

#### **4. Special Recognitions**

- Recognition of six youth leaders from James Logan High School for registering 844 people to vote on March 12, 2026.
- Presentation of certificates by Efeosa Orhue from Supervisor Elisa Márquez's Office

##### **Honorees:**

- Eva Gochez
- Samar Nisa Mehtabuddin
- Ella Cheung
- Pablo Sierra Balderas
- Thomas Pacheco
- Grace Liu

#### **5. Brown Act Training**

- Alameda County – County Counsel presented an overview of the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance, including current requirements and pending changes subject to Board of Supervisors approval.
- Discussion and examples were provided to clarify allowable and prohibited activities, as well as situations that may present potential concerns or conflicts under the Brown Act.
- It was noted that even the appearance of impropriety may constitute a potential violation.
- The purpose of the proposed changes was described as:
  1. Increasing public participation and access;
  2. Modernizing the Act to reflect technological changes; and
  3. Ensuring minimum standards for public participation and public notice.

#### **6. 2026 Retreat Planning Ad Hoc Committee Update**

- Commissioner Liliana reported that the May 23 retreat date was no longer viable.
- Commissioners proposed May 30 as an alternative date to submit to the facilitator for consideration.
- Social Services Agency staff will provide an update to commissioners regarding the facilitator's availability for the proposed date.
- Commissioners discussed that retreat content, and format would be further developed during the May Commission meeting.

#### **7. HRC Elections**

- Information regarding Ad Hoc Nominations Committee and elections process shared

- Review of duties for positions up for elections

## **8. Agenda Building**

- Retreat content and format discussion
- Commissioner election process

## **9. Public Comment**

- No Public Comment

## **10. Appreciations, Closing, and Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm