



City of Sunnyvale

Meeting Minutes

Human Relations Commission

Thursday, June 12, 2025

7:00 PM

Online and Redwood Conference Room,
City Hall, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale,
CA 94086

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Syquia called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Syquia led the salute to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Chair Nenuca Syquia
Vice Chair Venkata Siva Ramisetty
Commissioner Claudia Camacho
Commissioner Maria Paulina Zapata
Absent: 1 - Commissioner Esther Rosenfeld

Commissioner Rosenfeld's absence is unexcused.
Councilmember Chang (present).

PRESENTATION

A [25-0673](#) Recognition of Service

Council Liaison Chang expressed appreciation to Commissioner Camacho for their years of dedicated service and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Hearing opened at 7:38 p.m.
No speakers.
Public Hearing closed at 7:38 p.m.

MOTION: Vice Chair Ramisetty moved and Commissioner Zapata seconded the motion to approve Item 1.A.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Chair Syquia
Vice Chair Ramisetty
Commissioner Camacho
Commissioner Zapata

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Rosenfeld

1.A [25-0674](#) Approve the Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2025

Approve the Human Relations Commission Minutes of May 14, 2025 as submitted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2 [25-0676](#) Overview of “Allies in Training: Building a Better Community” event and Commissioner’s report on outreach efforts.

Equity, Access, and Inclusion (EAI) Manager Fernanda Perdomo-Arciniegas presented a staff report and expressed appreciation to the Commission for its efforts in promoting and marketing the upcoming event. It was reported that thirty individuals registered for the Zoom session and thirty-six for in-person attendance, representing the highest participation for any Human Relations Commission (HRC) event to date. This will also be the first HRC event offered in a hybrid format, bringing together a diverse audience including commissioners, board members, council members, community participants, and City staff, including the City Manager and Deputy City Manager.

The event is intended to build allyship by deepening participants' understanding of privilege and identifying how that awareness can be used to support the broader community. Appreciation was also extended to those who participated in outreach efforts at the Art and Wine Festival. Commissioners were invited to share and reflect on their experiences.

Chair Syquia expressed appreciation for the outreach “Allies in Training” buttons, which contributed to a more official and identifiable presence. Chair Syquia shared that many community members were engaged and asked questions, although a few were not interested. One common question from the public was, "What is the Human Relations Commission?" Chair Syquia explained that it is a newer

commission with the goal of bringing people together. They also noted that no one directly questioned the term "allyship," as it appeared that the community was already familiar with the concept. Outreach efforts included communication with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale, sharing information through the DRUM mailing list used by Bay Area Unitarian Universalist communities, and several posts on the NextDoor platform, including within the Refugee Resettlement Village group. Flyers were posted in local businesses, and additional outreach was conducted through Leadership Sunnyvale and personalized email messages.

Vice Chair Ramisetty shared that their outreach experience at the Art and Wine Festival was similar, with generally positive engagement from community members.

EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas reviewed event logistics and explained that due to quorum requirements, breakout room discussions will remain open to the public, allowing community members to observe and participate in conversations alongside commissioners.

Commissioner Camacho shared that their outreach efforts were focused on schools, including communication with local school principals.

Commissioner Zapata reported sending outreach emails to Livable Sunnyvale, Sunnyvale Environmental Education (SEE), Sunnyvale Community Services staff and clients, and the Downtown Association. EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas expressed appreciation to Commissioner Zapata for helping connect with the Chamber of Commerce, which allowed for additional promotion during the Art and Wine Festival.

EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas added that they also shared the event with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practitioners in both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County.

EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas reminded commissioners to complete the pre-survey prior to the allyship training and noted that a post-survey would be distributed at the end of the training to assess whether the intended learning objectives had been achieved.

Public Hearing opened at 7:51 p.m.

No speakers.

Public Hearing closed at 7:51 p.m.

3 [25-0677](#) Discussion for Second Signature Event and possible action.

EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas explained that this portion of the meeting was an opportunity for Commissioners to discuss ideas for the next event. EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas noted that Commissioners would lead the discussion, but that participation and input from the Council Liaison and the EAI Manager can also be provided.

Commissioners were reminded that planning for the HRC 2026 Work Plan is currently underway and to keep that in mind, as the draft Work Plan will be presented at the July HRC meeting. Commissioners were also reminded about the Study Issue process and that the HRC has not submitted any Study Issues in previous years.

EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas encouraged Commissioners to consider past topics the Commission has supported, including immigration, multi-heritage families, bullying in schools, and other related themes, when identifying future topics for exploration. They also noted that the May 2026 meeting will be a special meeting to accommodate the City's budget review schedule. Commissioners were also encouraged to consider opportunities to partner or co-host events with other Commissions.

Chair Syquia expressed support for organizing another event, stating that it provides an opportunity for community building. Chair Syquia shared that during outreach, community members were asked what they would like the Commission to do, and many expressed interest in events that help bring people together and create new relationships.

Commissioner Zapata asked if there would be a week focused on discrimination and hate. EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas confirmed that United Against Hate Week will take place in October. Commissioner Zapata recommended a focus on bullying, with an approach that includes both parents and children.

Commissioner Camacho supported the topic of bullying but suggested placing greater emphasis on social empathy. They recommended framing the conversation around solutions, such as what empathy looks like, how it is expressed and received, and recognizing that empathy can be practiced across languages and cultures. They added that focusing on empathy may lead to broader social improvements and strengthen community relationships.

EAI Manager Perdomo-Arciniegas expressed support for the suggestion to include parents and encouraged Commissioners to either attend School Board meetings or consider inviting School Board members to a future HRC meeting to begin

discussions about potential collaboration. EAI Manager Perdomo Arciniegas shared that they attend a monthly meeting with the School District and could present the idea at an upcoming session.

Council Liaison asked when the two newly appointed Commissioners will begin their terms. EAI Manager Perdomo Arciniegas confirmed that the new Commissions will begin their terms in July and emphasized that this is the beginning of a broader conversation in which those Commissions' ideas and input will be included in future event planning.

Public Hearing opened at 8:02 p.m.

No speakers.

Public Hearing closed at 8:02 p.m.

STANDING ITEM: CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL STUDY ISSUES

None.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

-Commissioner Comments

Chair Syquia provided an overview of the Conscious Capitalism Movement. They explained that the philosophy centers on the idea that businesses can only achieve long-term profitability if they are sustainable, and true sustainability requires a commitment to the well-being of the communities in which they operate and the people who work for them. This approach supports the success and growth of individuals regardless of their roles within the organization or where they live.

Chair Syquia noted that the Conscious Capitalism Movement is expanding to the Bay Area and expressed surprise that a chapter has not yet been established in Silicon Valley. They encouraged Commissioners to stay informed about this initiative, stating that they believe it represents a valuable and meaningful cause.

-Staff Comments

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Syquia adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.