

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, California**

**April 23, 2025**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Weeks-Morris, Vice Chair Stall-Nash, Melvin Jones, Marissa Serafino, Commissioner Davis (*arrived late*)

Absent: Commissioner Cohen-Bowman, Commissioner Hannigan

**4. REPORTS**

**A. Report from the Secretary**

- There are 4 terms that expire June 30, 2025 – Chair Dela Weeks-Morris, Vice-Chair Demetra Stall-Nash, Commissioner Courtney Davis, Commissioner Morgan Hannigan.
  - City Clerk Dawn Abrahamson will be starting the application process in June. Reappointment is not automatic.
- Commissioner Hannigan and Commissioner Marissa Serafino to receive their name tags after the meeting. (*Name tag given to Commissioner Serafino before the meeting.*)

**B. Report from Council Member Liaison Matulac**

- Commission has a \$1000 budget for training or materials to help promote the HRC. Commission to submit work plan to present in front of Council. Commissioners are encouraged to reach out to neighbors and friends that have similar voice and passion for Vallejo to find a replacement for their position for those not wishing to continue their term.

**C. Commissioner Reports**

- Chair Weeks-Morris: Participates in the citizens training program and encourages others to join future sessions to better understand how Vallejo's government works and connect with fellow residents. Commissioners are encouraged to stay informed about public safety updates through news, flyers, and other City communications.

- Commissioner Serafino: Also attends the citizens academy, reviewed how often other HRC in the Bay Area meet. Most meet monthly. Suggested this commission consider meeting once a month.
- Vice Stall-Nash: Attended two city meetings about homeless encampment sweeps. People experiencing homelessness shared how they were treated. Natalie Peterson and COC trying to find solutions based on their needs. Provide gift cards to attendees instead of a paper check. Better communication between organizers and those working directly with homeless individuals to understand real needs. IHeart joined a follow-up meeting to help address how to safely support homeless individuals with mental illness. Homeless presence near stores is hurting businesses. More training and collaboration needed between commissioners and City Council. Fatality at a homeless encampment raised serious concerns and potential legal consequences. A presentation from Sandra James from Milwaukee: "If it's not in my backyard, it'll be in your front yard." Mayors, judges, and police should work together to offer support, by waiving fines for homeless individuals who have no money and face the same struggles repeatedly.

**5. COMMUNITY FORUM**

Speakers: No Speakers

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes  
Recommendation: Approval of the minutes of April 23, 2025, regular meeting.  
Action: Moved by Vice-Chair Stall-Nash and carried unanimously. (absent: Commissioner Hannigan, Commissioner Cohen-Bowman, and Commissioner Davis)

**7. INFORMATION CALENDAR**

- A. Presentation by the City Attorney's Office on the Brown Act and role of the Commission.  
 ➤ Assistant City Attorney responded to questions from Vice-Chair Stall-Nash, Commissioner Serafino, and Commissioner Jones.

**8. ACTION CALENDAR**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Human Relations Commission 2025/2026 Goals  
Recommendation: Approve existing Goals for 2025 and 2026  
Action: Moved by Chair Weeks-Morris and carried unanimously
- B. Discussion of Human Relations Issues Related to Homelessness and Ways that the Commission could provide Education, Advice, or Assistance

Recommendation: Agendize the creation of a subcommittee to gather and present detailed information about homelessness and the groups working to address it in Vallejo.

Action: Moved by Chair Weeks-Morris and carried unanimously (abstain: Commissioner Davis) (absent: Commissioner Hannigan, Commissioner Cohen-Bowman)

**9. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

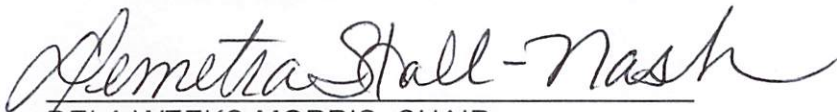
- A. Presentation by First Responders' Transformation-How to Envision First Responders' Roles in the Community
  - Commissioner Davis to meet with team next month. Table to the next meeting.
- B. Presentation by Pathfinders for Hope on Homelessness
  - Presentation discussed at Commission meeting on January 22, 2025

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Discussion of ways the Commission could have intentional contacts and conversations with the community, to inform them of the Commission's purpose and existence, which may include regular presence at events or action that may be taken by individual Commissioners.  
Recommendation: Agendize item at the next meeting.  
Action: Moved by Vice-Chair Stall-Nash and carried unanimously (Chair Weeks-Morris votes against it) (absent: Commissioner Hannigan, Commissioner Cohen-Bowman)
- B. Discussion and scheduling Special Meetings to meet more frequently.  
Recommendation: Secretary to identify a date prior to July 23 set date and if there is availability schedule the Special Meeting on that date.  
Action: Moved by Chair Weeks-Morris and carried unanimously.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.



~~DELA WEEKS MORRIS, CHAIR~~  
*Demetra Stall-Nash, Vice Chair*

ATTEST:



VANESSA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY