



County of Santa Cruz 29

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/2/99

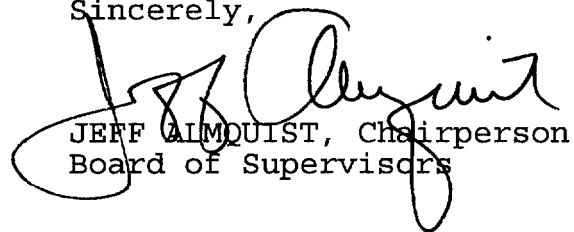
January 20, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Attached is the Annual Report of the Women's Commission for calendar year 1998. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairperson to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,


JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted

cc: Women's Commission

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WOMEN'S COMMISSION



C O U N T Y O F S A N T A C R U Z

(831) 454-2772

701 OCEAN STREET SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

January 20, 1999

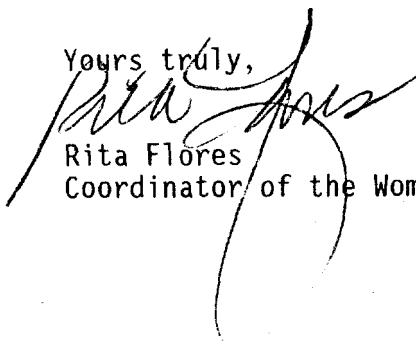
**Jeff Almquist, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California**

Dear Supervisor Almquist,

Attached is the year end report of the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission which was approved by the Commission at their January 14, 1999 meeting. I respectfully request that the report be accepted by the Board.

The Women's Commission would again like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their support on issues that effect women in Santa Cruz County.

Yours truly,


Rita Flores
Coordinator of the Women's Commission

WOMEN'S COMMISSION**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

(831) 454-2772

701 OCEAN STREET SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

1998 YEAR END REPORT**I. ROLE OF THE COMMISSION**

The Women's Commission is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on issues concerning inequalities of rights and opportunities and the means to insure equal rights and opportunities for all peoples, focusing particularly on women. The Commission acts as a channel for conveying the concerns of women in the community to the Board of Supervisors. The concerns are gathered through public meetings and through reviewing information regarding women on international, national and local levels.

II. MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

January 11, 1998	508 Washington Street	10:00-1:00
January 15, 1998	Government Center	6:30-8:30
February 12, 1998	Government Center	6:30-8:30
March 5, 1998	Government Center	6:30-8:30
April 9, 1998	Government Center	6:30-8:30
May 14, 1998	Government Center	6:30-8:30
June 11, 1998	Government Center	6:30-9:00
July 19, 1998*	UCSC Women's Center	10:00-3:00
August		
September 18, 1998	Government Center	6:30-8:30
October 8, 1998	Government Center	6:30-8:30
November 12, 1998	Aptos Pines Mobile Home Park	6:30-8:30
December 10, 1998	Aptos Pines Mobile Home Park	6:30-8:30

*Retreat

III. COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission has ten members, two representing each district and appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission's officers are two co-chairs. This year's co-chairs are Alison Harlow and Anita Henri. The present members are:

1st district - Anita Henri, Cori Houston
 2nd district - Allison Woodman, Patricia Peterson
 3rd district - Mary Strunk, Sheila De Lany
 4th district - Gail Stevens, Luisa Cavallero
 5th district - Janice Bolin, Alison Harlow

IV. COMMISSION STAFF

The Commission has a staff person for twenty hours per week. The staff person for 1998 was Rita Flores. Staff represents the Commission in some of the Commission's activities.

V. ATTENDANCE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7*	9	10	11	12
Cori Houston	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	xxx		a		L
Alison Harlow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	xxx		x		x
Patricia Peterson	-	-	x	a	x	x	x	xxx		x		x
Sheila De Lany	x	x	x	x	x	a	a	xxa		x		x
Janice Bolin	x	x	a	x	x	x	x	xxx		x		x
Gail Stevens	-	-	-	x	a	x	x	a	a	x	x	x
Luisa Caballero	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	a	x	a	x	x
Allison Woodman	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	a	x	a	x	x
Anita Henri	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	xxx		x		x
Mary Strunk	x	x	x	a	x	x	x	x	a	L	L	L
x=present	a=absent											
	L=leave of absence											
	-=not yet on the Commission											
	no meeting scheduled											

VI. ANNUAL GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The goals of the Commission are set on the fiscal calendar and are reflected in the vision statement: The Santa Cruz County Women's Commission is active, visible and decisive, working to improve the lives of women and girls in the County by encouraging their self-empowerment and self-determination. The Commission embodies hope, spirit and resolution working together for change. It represents and works for the Board of Supervisors and the community to bring about political and economic equity for all women in the county and strives to be sensitive to the needs of diverse groups of women. The Women's Commission also acts to recognize the efforts of community members on behalf of women.

The Commission continues to work on the following issues: Subcommittee on Welfare Reform Implementation; access to women's health and reproductive rights; violence against women prevention; Beyond Beijing; Awards Celebration, gender equity, public awareness of women's issues; activating the vision statement. At the retreat in July, a time line was established for the annual activities. Specific goals which were set included: becoming more visible in the community; creating more projects for the Commission to work on together; prioritizing the issue of women in poverty and the effects of the welfare reform implementation; participating with the Domestic Violence Commission and working to end violence against women.

A. WELFARE REFORM AND WOMEN IN POVERTY**GOALS**

1. To monitor welfare reform implementation and advocate for women and children living in poverty in Santa Cruz County by coordinating and staffing a Subcommittee on Welfare Reform Implementation.
2. To communicate with the Board of Supervisors on welfare reform through minutes of the monthly meetings and issue letters.
3. To work with other advocacy groups to improve the plight of welfare mothers and to change public perception.

ACTIVITIES

1. **The Women's Commission spearheaded a subcommittee on Welfare Reform Implementation.** Other members of the subcommittee include WeLISN (formerly Welfare Parents Support Group), Community Action Board, Human Services Commission, Cabrillo College Fast Track To Work, Cabrillo College EOP, Program Director of CALWORKS, interested members of the community. Coordinator attended and staffed the subcommittee meetings.
2. **Commissioner Woodman wrote an article about welfare reform for the Comic News.**
3. **Commissioner Woodman lobbied Senator McPherson on welfare reform**
4. **Commissioner Woodman wrote an article on welfare reform for the Outrageous Truth newsletter.**
5. **Commissioner De Lany was part of a task force which worked to bring services to the Valley for women on welfare. Cabrillo College increased the number of classes being held in the Valley as a result of this effort. HRA is looking for ways to provide child care and transportation to the area.**
6. **The Commission wrote letters supporting AB 2562 which provided cost of living adjustments to recipients on SSI or TANF.**
7. **The Commission wrote a letter to the Board asking for support of AB 2562.**

B. PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**GOALS**

1. **To participate on the Domestic Violence Commission.**
2. **To participate in October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month by attending events and sponsoring activities.**
3. **To publicize the issue of domestic violence.**
4. **To advocate for non-violence.**

ACTIVITIES

1. **Commissioner Henri represented the Women's Commission on the Domestic Violence Commission and was a member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Education Committee.**
2. **Commissioner Stevens worked on legislation for second time offenders of domestic violence and lobbied legislators to carry such legislation.**
3. **Commissioners Stevens, Henri, Woodman, and Bolin attended the Hands are Not for Hitting Campaign event.**
4. **Commissioners Henri and Stevens attended the meeting on the pending merger of Defensa de Mujeres and Women's Crisis Support.**
5. **Commissioner Stevens attended the Criminal Justice Council meeting and focused on follow-up with diversion counseling.**
6. **Commissioner Henri attended the presentation on MDSAIC, a computer program for tracking batterers.**
7. **Commissioner Stevens requested that the Commission support legislation which would mandate a five year prison sentence for second time offenders of domestic violence and that the concept of zero tolerance for domestic violence be adopted. The Commission supported in concept the mandatory sentences for second time offenders and adopted the zero tolerance for domestic violence.**
8. **Commissioners Bolin, Henri, Houston attended the awards presentation of the Domestic Violence Commission which was held at the**

Posse House. Pat Clark was nominated by the Women's Commission to receive an award.

9. Commissioner Henri attended at meeting with the Board of Supervisors, pinning purple ribbons on Supervisors, and reading a proclamation about domestic violence awareness.
10. Commissioner Henri organized and attended a media event to open up Domestic Violence Awareness month and to announce the events. A bus poster advertisement campaign for domestic violence awareness was launched.
11. Commissioner Henri wrote a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
12. Commissioner Henri and the DVC Education Committee organized an evening event to pin purple ribbons on 10,000 resource cards to be distributed during domestic Violence Awareness month.
13. Commission members displayed the Clothesline Project in Santa Cruz, Capitola, Boulder Creek, Aptos during the month of October.
14. Commissioner Stevens invited Celia Organista to the Commission meeting to talk about the merger of Defensa and Women's Crisis Support.

C. GENDER EQUITY

GOALS

1. To sponsor Take our Daughters to Work Day.
2. To encourage diversity on the Women's Commission.
3. To celebrate Women and Sports Day, Women's' Equality Day, Black Women's History Month, International Women's History Month with public events or displays.
4. To participate in Beyond Beijing planning.
5. To encourage equal opportunity for women and girls.

ACTIVITIES

1. Commissioners De Lany , Peterson and Harlow organized "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" for County employees. Unfortunately the event was cancelled because of inclement weather but the event was publicized through press releases, letters to schools and libraries.
2. The Commission filled its vacant positions and increased its diversity.
3. An awards celebration was held in March to honor individuals, groups and organizations who have worked to improve the status of women in our community. The committee solicited nominations from the community and selected 10 awardees. On March 8, during International Women's History month, and on International Women's Day, the Commission hosted an awards celebration. Mary Atkins Sandy Brown, Mary Hammer, Callie Hawley, Karen Osmundson, Kayla Rose/Herland Bookstore, Luz Salcedo, Gail Stevens, Laurel Wilson, Battered Women's Task Force were honored. The 1998 event was held at the Henry Mello Center in Watsonville. More than 100 people attended. The Sentinel and the Register Pajaronian interviewed and photographed the recipients for articles. Information on Women's History was sent to all Santa Cruz schools, libraries and media, encouraging participation in the recognition of outstanding women in history. An exhibit of photographs of the award recipients was dis-

played in the County Building during the month of March, International Women's History Month. A reception for the photographer Hedwig Heerschop, was held on March 12 in the County Building.

The Commission strives to be sensitive to the needs of diverse groups of women. In 1998 this was again reflected in our dedication to providing Spanish-English interpretation at the annual awards event with an interpreter and cordless headsets. The programs were translated into Spanish. We have struggled for years to make this event and our public hearings sensitive and accessible to Spanish speakers. It is now refined and a part of our planning process. A sliding scale donation was instituted to make the event more accessible.

4. The Commission wrote a letter to the Chancellor of UCSC encouraging the University to again sponsor a "Expanding Your Horizons" workshop for young women which encourages girls to enter into math and science studies.
5. Commissioners took part in Teen Women's Day.
6. The Commission joined the Math Science Network.
7. Commissioner Houston organized a community group to present awards to girls and women in sports.
8. The Commission continued to work for the ratification of CEDAW
9. The Commission wrote a letter of support for the work of Maria McClain with women in the local jail.
10. Commissioner De Lany helped organize a workshop with Catherine Dee, author of "A Girls' Guide to Life". 23 girls attended at the event in the Valley.
11. Commissioner Henri participated on a panel at Harbor High School on the topics of sexism and sexual harassment.
12. Commissioner De Lany wrote a proclamation for Women's Equality Day.
13. The Commission received information from San Francisco of their plan to implement CEDAW and to conduct a study of equity in S.F. government. The Commission plans to invite a representative to talk with them of the outcome of the investigation and the relevance to Santa Cruz County.
14. The Commission co-sponsored an event with the Watsonville Y which presented awards to women working to help women. Commissioner De Lany was awarded for her work with Beyond Beijing. The event was attended by Commissioners De Lany and Henri.

D. WOMEN'S HEALTH

GOALS

1. To network with community agencies providing health care and advocacy.
2. To review legislation and make recommendations.
3. To participate in the Reproductive Rights Network.

ACTIVITIES

1. The Commission was a co-sponsoring member of the Central Coast Women's Cancer Consortium
2. Commissioner Sheila De Lany represented the Commission at the Reproductive Rights meetings and attended their annual luncheon meeting.

3. The Commission co-sponsored the Pro Choice Brunch which was attended by Commissioners De Lany and Harlow.
4. The Commission wrote letters of support for AB 1621 which mandates medical necessity reconstructive surgery.
5. The Commission wrote to the Governor supporting a mandate for inclusion of family planning in insurance policies.
6. The Commission wrote letters of support for SB 2123, which creates the infrastructure for implementation of priorities establishing health child care, and AB 1112, a family planning bill. Letters were sent to the Board, Watson and McPherson.
7. The Commission heard a presentation from Jeanette Hines on Universal Health Care (Cal Care) and wrote letters of support to the Board, Watson and McPherson.
8. Commissioner Henri organized and participated in an event with Jerry Brown on the issue of medical marijuana.
9. The Commission sent a letter to the Alcohol Beverage Distributors about their advertising practices which market youth.
10. Commissioner De Lany met with the Valley Resource Center, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, and community representatives regarding health and family planning to provide services to low income individuals and families in the Valley.

E. STATE AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

GOALS

1. For the Santa Cruz County Commission to be visible and active in State and National and International Activities.

ACTIVITIES

1. The Commission was on the host committee for the first Convention of California Commissions of Women held in August.
2. Commissioners Harlow and Woodman attended Women in Action Lobby Day in Sacramento and lobbied legislators on welfare reform and domestic violence.
3. Commissioner Harlow attended the National Organization for Women State Conference.
4. The Commission was a member of the National Association of Commissions for Women and the California Commission of Women.
5. Commissioner Harlow attended the first annual meeting of the California Commissions of Women.
6. Commissioner De Lany participated in the California Women's Agenda which is a follow-up to the Beijing Conference. She participated in virtual women's conferences on the Internet and continued to work for the passage of CEDAW.
7. The Commission joined the White House Project, a non-partisan group working to elect a woman president.
8. The Commission co-sponsored a Beyond Beijing event.
9. Commissioner De Lany attended a African Feminist conference on the Internet which addressed women's development.
10. Commissioner De Lany visited the Glasgow Women's Library.
11. Commissioner De Lany met with the publisher of a feminist annual in France and with French women to discuss issues of concern to women.
12. Commissioner Bolin is on the Board of NAACP.

F. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

1. Commissioner Bolin helped organize vigils in Santa Cruz and Boulder Creek opposing the presence of the KKK in Santa Cruz.
2. Commissioner Bolin represented the Commission at the Gym Jam in the Valley, providing printed materials about the Commission.
3. Commissioners De Lany and Henri attended the Board meeting discussing cancellation of the December and July meetings of the Commission.
4. The Commission heard from Gillian Greensite of the Rape Education Program at UCSC about her concerns of confidentiality of reporting. The Commission also heard from representatives of the University and wrote a letter to the Chancellor of the University requesting that the confidentiality of rape and sexual assault reports remain a priority.
5. The Commission heard from the Strawberry Workers Organization, signed a pledge of support, and wrote to the Board requesting that it sign the pledge of support for a living wage, health benefits, clean drinking water and elimination of sexual harassment for strawberry pickers.
6. Commissioner Bolin worked with Valley Unity Action to confront hate crimes.
7. Commissioner Bolin participated in Partners for a Peaceful Community.

VII. FUTURE PLANS

1. The Commission will hold its annual awards celebration event on, March 26, during Women's History Month, at the Pacific Cultural Center in Santa Cruz and a Photo Show of the awardees at the County Building.
2. The Commission will continue to work with the Domestic Violence Commission.
3. Work will continue on welfare reform implementation.
4. Annual projects including International Women's History Month, Take Our Daughters to Work Day, Women in Sports Day, etc will be continued.
5. The Commission will sponsor an school-based essay writing contest of an outstanding woman in history. The winners essays will be read at the Awards Celebration in celebration of Women's History Month.
6. The Commission will work on a Women's calendar for the year 2000.
7. The Commission will co-sponsor an event with Senior Network which will bring Betty Friedan to Santa Cruz.
8. The Commission will continue to review legislation and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
9. The Commission will take an active part in national reproductive rights action and legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Flores

Coordinator of the Women's Commission

Approved by the Women's Commission on January 14, 1999