

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Santa Cruz Police Department
155 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Wednesday, February 11, 2004, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Mark Tracy, Chair
JoAnn Allen
Melissa Berrengé
Linda Byrum
Sonya Drottar (Excused)
Gillian Greensite
Lynn Harrison
Tom Kelly

Bob Lee
Jim McMillan for Larry Biggam
Dixie Mitchell-Clow
Charles Molnar
Celia Organista
Francesca Raphael
Mary Simoni
Heidi Simonson

Commissioners Absent:

Kim Austin
Amy Christey
Michelle Finch (Excused)
Alan Hiromura (Excused)

Ernesto Lopez Molina
Francine Nickell
Dee O'Brien (Excused)
Linda Starn (Excused)

Others Present:

Jenny Sarmiento

Julie Schneider

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Mark Tracy.

2. Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

3. Additions and Deletions to Agenda

There were none.

4 Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2004

Gillian Greensite asked that the minutes be corrected to state that she shared the latest statistics on domestic violence in the City of Santa Cruz noting the significant increase in

the more serious violations. She expressed regrets that no one had attended the CPVAW annual public hearing. On the motion of Francesca Raphael that was seconded by JoAnn Allen, the minutes were approved as corrected with Celia Organista abstaining.

5 Oral Communication from the Community

None.

6 Nomination/Election of Officers -- Chair and Vice Chair

On the motion of Celia Organista that was seconded by Melissa Berrengue, Bob Lee was nominated for Chair. Motion carried. Bob Lee was then elected unanimously by the Commission.

On the motion of JoAnn Allen that was seconded by Celia Organista, Heidi Simonson was nominated for Vice Chair. Motion carried. Heidi Simonson was elected unanimously by the Commission.

The new Chair will convene the agenda review committee.

7. Commissioners Terms of Office

Mark Tracy distributed Domestic Violence Commission terms of office. He stated that the incoming Chair, Bob Lee, will need to take action on Commissioner positions 11 through 19 listed on the handout. These positions are set to expire on March 31, 2005. Mark Tracy went on to say that a letter should be directed to the Board of Supervisors requesting that those commissioners be reappointed or replaced.

8. Proposal to Move Bi-monthly Meetings, and Finalize Meeting Locations

Bob Lee made a motion to have the Commission meet six times per year, with three meetings to be held in Watsonville. The motion was seconded by Lynn Harrison. During the discussion it was clear that there was a concern by some Commissioners that a reduction of meetings could impact the work of the Commission. Mark Tracy noted that extra meetings could be called if needed. A recommendation was made during the discussion to re-evaluate the Committees and the work that they are doing.

Lynn Harrison amended the motion to exclude the awards night banquet from the six meetings. Mary Simoni seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote: 11 Commissioners voting yes, four Commissioners voting no and one abstention.

9. South County Treatment Programs

Jenny Sarmiento from Family Service Association of Pajaro Valley made a presentation.

Bob Lee made a motion to include a seat representing a South County batterers intervention program on the Commission. The motion was seconded by Tom Kelly, and the motion carried.

Bob Lee will write a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting that they make this addition to the Commission.

10. Proposed Calendar for Commission Meetings

This item was carried over to the March 11, 2004 meeting.

11. Reports from Committees

a) Evaluation

No report.

b) Annual Report

Mark Tracy stated that Alan Hiromura is in the process of printing the annual report.

c) Direct Services Report

Julie Schneider reported that the committee has prepared a timeline to provide batterers intervention training from experts from within this community. There is another meeting scheduled for .

11. Announcements from Commissioners

Gillian Greensite distributed domestic violence statistics in the city of Santa Cruz during the month of December, 2003.

Celia Organista announced that the Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres annual fundraiser will be May 7, 2004 at Chaminade. For more information contact Celia Organista.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. to ***March 10, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Police Department, Community Room.***

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary
Domestic Violence Commission