

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

County Government Center, Cafeteria
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Wednesday, November 14, 2001, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Christine McGuire, Chair
Melissa Berrengé
Larry Biggam
Lisa Gifford
Anita Henri, Vice Chair
Alan Hiromura
Ernesto Lopez Molina
Francine Nickell

Celia Organista
Francesca Raphael
Steve Robbins for Mark Tracy
John Rhoads
Mary Simon
Heidi Simonson
Sam Stevens
Maria Isabel Vargas

Commissioners Absent:

JoAnn Allen (Excused)
Steve Belcher (Excused)
Jane Brune
Amy Christey
Evelyn Hall (Excused)
Lynn Harrison

Loretta Kuechle
Laurie McWhorter (Excused)
Heather Morse (Excused)
Dee O'Brien
Barbara Schaller
Linda Starn (Excused)

Others Present:

Kathleen Hassinger

Mary Reiter

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Christine McGuire.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2001

On the motion of Celia Organista and second by Anita Henri the minutes of October 10, 2001 were approved as submitted.

4. Oral Communication from the Community

Kathleen Hassinger related her experiences as a domestic violence victim in the criminal justice system.

6. Approval of Grant Application for Submission to Community Foundation, Selection of Date for One Day Retreat/Planning Meeting and Authorization to Executive Committee to Select Consultant, Authorization to Executive Committee to Cancel January or February Meeting.

There was a discussion concerning the language contained in the grant. Celia Organista suggested non-substantive changes to the language of the application. John Rhoads suggested changes to the grant budget.

Lisa Gifford made a motion to approve the grant application with the suggested language and budget changes. John Rhoads seconded the motion. Motion carried.

On the motion of Lisa Gifford seconded by Mary Simoni, Commissioners authorized the Executive Committee to select a consultant for the retreat. Motion carried.

On the motion of Lisa Gifford seconded by Anita Henri the regular Commission meeting scheduled for February 13, 2002 was adjourned to February 22, 2002 for the retreat/planning meeting. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Recommendation that Executive Committee Prepare 2001 Annual Report for Submission to the Board of Supervisors by January 31, 2002

Christine McGuire asked for Commissioners' approval for the Executive Committee to prepare the 2001 Annual report for submission to the Board of Supervisors. On the motion of Judge Stevens seconded by Lisa Gifford the motion was carried.

8. Approval of Change to Ordinance and Bylaws to Require Appointment Of One rather than Two Judges to the Commission.

Judge Stevens stated that when the Commission was established the ordinance provided that two judges would be members of the Commission so that the Municipal and Superior courts would be represented. Because the courts have been consolidated there is no need for two judges to sit on the Commission. He asked Commissioners for their approval to have the court represented by one judge. On the motion of Anita Henri seconded by Alan Hiromura the motion was approved. Christine McGuire will write a letter to the County Counsel requesting them to amend the ordinance.

9. Committee Reports

Steve Robbins stated the the Law Enforcement Committee had met and discussed the Law Enforcement Protocol. The Law Enforcement Committee will be meeting on December 3, 2001 to further discuss the protocol.

10. Oral Communications from Commissioners

Francesca Raphael inquired about the status of the web site links that she had submitted to the Executive Committee for permission to be placed on the Domestic Violence Commission web site. Christine McGuire informed her that the Executive Committee is in the process of reviewing them and will report back to her at a future meeting.

Francesca Raphael asked if the Probation Department is encouraging couples counseling. John Rhoads agreed to make a presentation to the Commission on this topic at the January 9, 2002 Commission Meeting.

Judge Stevens announced that the domestic violence court would be fully implemented in January, 2002. He encouraged Commissioners to attend court proceedings in his courtroom and submit ideas or suggestions to him. The domestic violence court cases are now heard each Thursday beginning at 8:30 a.m. and in the afternoon at 1:30 p.m. in Department 7 of the Superior Court.

There was a brief discussion regarding the location of future Commission meetings. Francesca Raphael and Celia Organista will meet to identify possible locations in mid and/or south county.

11. Announcements

None was submitted.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. to January 9, 2002 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