

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Watsonville Police Department
215 Union Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

Wednesday, November 12, 2003, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Mark Tracy, Chair
JoAnn Allen
Kim Austin
Amy Christey
Sonya Drottar

Alan Hiromura
Jim McMillan for Larry Biggam
Celia Organista
Francesca Raphael

Commissioners Absent:

Melissa Berrengé (Excused)
Michelle Finch (Excused)
Gillian Greensite (Excused)
Tom Kelly
Bob Lee
Dixie Mitchell-Clow
Ernesto Lopez Molina

Charles Molnar (Excused)
Francine Nickell
Dee O'Brien
Mary Simoni
Heidi Simonson
Linda Starn (Excused)

Others Present:

Linda Byrum
Scott Hawkins

Julie Schneider

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 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 October 8, 2003 Meeting

Because there was no quorum, this matter will be placed on the January 14, 2004 meeting agenda.

5 Oral Communication from the Community

Linda Byrum, who was victimized in a domestic violence case, related her experience in the criminal justice system.

Sheriff Tracy suggested that she make an appointment to speak to him, and District Attorney Bob Lee to discuss specific complaints and possible remedies.

6 Chair Report

Sheriff Tracy announced that Anita Henri has resigned from the Commission. He will be sending her a letter thanking and acknowledging her service to the Commission. He also stated that because of the resignation there is a vacancy for the at-large survivor representative. Applications for appointment to this position may be obtained at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office or on the Domestic Violence Commission web site.

7. Reports from Committees

a) Evaluation

Joann Allen reported that the Evaluation Committee has two more batterers treatment programs to review.

b) Annual Report

Alan Hiromura reported that the Report Development/Annual Report Committee will attempt to publish the Annual Report by April 1, 2004. In order to meet that publication date, initial drafts of all of the sections need to be submitted to Dominican Hospital by January 5, 2004. If that deadline is met, Dominican Hospital will submit the final draft for Commissioners to review by February 16, 2004.

The Report Development/Annual Report Committee will meet and develop a more detailed Annual Report schedule and contact the various members of the Domestic Violence Commission to inform them of their responsibilities in the report preparation, and the timelines in which they must complete their sections in order for the Domestic Violence Commission to meet the April 1, 2004, publishing date. The Report Development/Annual Report Committee will coordinate their activities with the Chair of the Commission, Sheriff Tracy.

The Report Development /Annual Report Committee will also work with the Information Services Department to ensure that the Annual Report is placed on the Domestic Violence Commission web site.

c) Direct Services Report

Because Julie Schneider had to leave early due to a previous training commitment, no report was submitted.

8. Commission Ordinance

a) Election of Officers

b) Terms of Office

Sheriff Tracy distributed an opinion prepared by Rahn Garcia, Chief Assistant County Counsel regarding establishing terms for members appointed on an at-large basis. The memo is attached to these minutes. According to the Santa Cruz County Code members of commissions have a term of office that coincides with the term of the Fourth and Fifth District Supervisor. The Chair with the assistance of the Executive Committee will draw lots to establish terms of office for the at-large members of the Commission. There doesn't appear to be term limits on the positions, only the requirement that terms be set.

9. LGBT Task Force

Sonya Drottar announced Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres has been participating in the Queer Anti-violence Task Force to help them develop resources that address gay domestic violence issues.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. to **January 14, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. Location to be determined.**

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary
Domestic Violence Commission