

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Noelia Corzo, District 2
Supervisor Ray Mueller, District 3
Subject: Appointments to the Commission on the Status of Women

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation for appointments to the Commission on the Status of Women:

- A) Julissa Acosta, for an initial full term ending December 31, 2026; and
- B) Susan Takalo, for an initial full term ending December 31, 2026; and
- C) Aysha Pamukcu, for an initial full term ending December 31, 2026; and
- D) Jess Hudson, for an initial partial term ending December 31, 2024; and
- E) La Saundra Gutter, for an initial partial term ending December 31, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission is charged with the responsibility of assessing the needs of women, girls and families in the County. It acts as a resource and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors annually.

DISCUSSION:

Julissa Acosta, Susan Takalo, and Aysha Pamukcu are each being recommended to serve their first full terms on the commission for seats vacated by Christine Padilla, Kelly Keele, and Karen Pyles. Jess Hudson and La Saundra Gutter are each being recommended for existing partial terms ending December 2024 for seats vacated by Dana Linda and Marguerite Machen who have resigned mid-term.

Julissa Acosta was inspired by the 2022 Women's Hall of Fame and decided to apply to the Commission on the Status of Women because of this event. She has lived on the coast and in Half Moon Bay for over 22 years and has found that women of color are usually behind in growth and development opportunities. She would like to provide more representation from the coast on the CSW and also meet others with the same interests and passion.

Susan Takalo has lived on the coast for many years and has recently relocated to Half Moon Bay with her wife. She will be retiring in June of 2023 from Second Harvest Food Bank and looks forward to dedicating more time to empowering women and girls. She also volunteers on the San Mateo County Pride Initiative and is an active member of the San Mateo County Pride Center and CoastPride.

Aysha Pamukcu resides in South San Francisco and is a life-long resident of the County (born in Redwood City). Aysha is the Director of the Policy Fund at the San Francisco Foundation and has seen first-hand how lack of housing has impacted women. She looks forward to working on equity issues and giving back to the San Mateo County community.

Jess Hudson is a resident of Millbrae and a life-long resident of San Mateo County. She has 10 years of lived experience as a low-income single mother who has experienced domestic violence. She currently works for the United Way Bay Area as a Policy Specialist and has passion for issues specific to women and families.

La Saundra Gutter is recently retired after working for the County of San Mateo Youth Services Center, specifically with girls, for most of her career. She and her family live in Pacifica and she is eager to volunteer her time on the Commission on the Status of Women.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION FINDING THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM, MEETING IN PERSON FOR MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed pursuant to his authority under the California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code section 8625, that a state of emergency exists with regard to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, the Governor clarified that the “reopening” of California on June 15, 2021 did not include any change to the proclaimed state of emergency or the powers exercised thereunder, and as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to California Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution in the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950 et seq. (the “Brown Act”), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 that provides that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet without fully complying with the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act provided the legislative

body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and,

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and,

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo currently has a Community Transmission metric of “substantial” which is the second most serious of the tiers; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission on the Status of Women has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of those who participate in its meetings; and,

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Commission on the Status of Women deems it necessary to find that meeting in person would present imminent risks

to the health or safety of attendees, and thus intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing;

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all legislative bodies of the County of San Mateo that are subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Assessment Appeals Board, the Civil Service Commission, and all other oversight and advisory boards, committees and commissions established by the Board of Supervisors and subject to the Brown Act, to make a similar finding and avail themselves of teleconferencing until the risk of community transmission has further declined;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The Commission on the Status of Women finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. Staff is directed to return no later than thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution with an item for the Commission on the Status of Women to consider making the findings required by AB 361 in order to continue meeting under its provisions.
4. Staff is directed to take such other necessary or appropriate actions to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 6:30-8:30pm

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

2. Roll Call

- a. **Commissioners Present:** Nirmala Bandrapalli, Aileen Cassinetto, Sue Datta (late), Anya Drabkin (late, vote only on #11), Cheryl Fama, Ann Girard, Susan Kokores, Melissa Lukin, Ellen Tafeen (left early, no vote on #11), Maya Tussing, Anisha Weber, Cate Warden, Candra Williams (late, vote only on #11)

Staff: Tanya Beat, Jacki Rigoni

Absent: Natalie Handel

- 3. Public Comment** – Ligia Andrade Zuniga: Commission on Disabilities will be hosting the annual Transition to Independence Fair for youth with disabilities (transitioning into adulthood). February 4, from 10am – 2pm at El Camino High School in South San Francisco <https://www.smctransitionfair.org/>

4. Action to Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items

Motion to replace #7 with “Moment of Expression/Outlet” and to move #8 to the February Agenda by Cheryl Fama. Seconded by Nirmala Bandrapalli. Approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5. Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.**
- 6. Approval of November 2022 Minutes** (action under Consent)

REGULAR AGENDA

- 7. Moment of Expression/Outlet** (regarding the tragedy in Half Moon Bay)
- Allow people who may be impacted or triggered by this topic to leave and then return after we are done with this agenda item.
 - Feelings expressed: anger, hopelessness, fear, heartbreak, wanting to help migrant communities here, frustration if anything is going to change, the challenges of being an immigrant and the impact on the kids and the youth in the community.
 - As a Commission, what can we do? What is our Call to Action? This is opportunity to raise the issue of gun violence for us now and at the retreat.
 - Public Comment from Julissa Acosta (city of Half Moon Bay). Dayna Chung, Marni Rubin
- 8. President Pine’s Priorities for 2023** (moved to February Agenda. Cede time to Supervisor Corzo)
- Comments from Supervisor Corzo
 - Comments from Senior Legislative Aide Jacki Rigoni
- 9. Advancing Economic Justice** (presentation)

- Presentation by Lydia Bustamante, Director of Financial Stability, Silicon Valley Community Foundation
 - i. Provide information for the CSW to consider when developing their longer term Work Plans
 - ii. SVCF work with various partners, gov't, commissions; research, convene people to examine issues, fundraise, educating, leverage relationships for the community common good.
 - iii. Economic Justice: the need to ensure that everyone has access to material resources that creates opportunities in order to live a life that's unencumbered by pressing economic concerns.
 - iv. Access to public benefits, financial coaching, direct cash assistance or starting a business
 - v. Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI): data presented (see meeting materials for ppt with data); description of the program, comparison to Universal Basic Income, participants in past or existing programs and what they spend the money on and how it changes their lives.
 - vi. Examples of cost could be: \$500 or \$1000 or \$1500 /month over 18-24 months. 125-250 people.
 - vii. CSW: our BOS is setting out to study this program. Ad-hoc committee created to study this and Supervisor Corzo was appointed to that group.

10. Retreat Discussion and One-on-One Results (presentation)

- Presentation by Maya Tussing
- See attached presentation to minutes document
- Maya and Susan met with all commissioners to receive feedback
 - i. Positives
 - ii. Challenges
 - iii. Opportunities
 - iv. Commissioner comment: Cate Warden shared that in SF their Youth Commission consistently publish legislation responses on policy that pertains to youth.
 - v. Themes of Interest
 - vi. How does the CSW evolve how they do their work in meetings, in community, on issues, with partners and better communication with BOS and County? And how do we do all of this without adding more commissioner time?

11. REPORTS:

- **CSW Director**
 - i. **2023 Calendar and future meeting locations (action)**
 - 1. Motion to remove the August meeting for a summer break and keep the November meeting date by Maya Tussing. Second by Nirmala Bandrapalli. Approved.
 - ii. **Attendance & Participation (discussion)**
 - 1. March meeting will be a County Center in Redwood City (rm 101)
 - 2. We can meet at various places around SMC. I will ask you all to send me suggested venues and what we need.
 - 3. Maya & Ann suggest to possibly move meeting times to 6:00-8:00pm to accommodate venues that close at 8:00pm. We can take action on this in February.
 - 4. Tanya will also provide a survey regarding meeting in-person (vaccinations, wearing masks, taking rapid test the day of a meeting, etc).

- **Youth Commission**

- i. First meeting of the year was everyone updating each other
- ii. Sub-Committees are meeting now
- iii. More information to share at the Feb CSW meeting

12. Commissioner Announcements:

13. Adjournment

The **Commission on the Status of Women Group** agree to arrive on time/start on time; take turns speaking; speak loud enough for everyone to hear; be courteous of other opinions; listen to hear a different perspective than your own; mute phones; allow the chair to guide the process; Chair will check in about remaining time at 8:15 PM.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular or special meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to members of the Commission. Those public records are available online and for public inspection at the Human Resources Department located at 455 County Center, 5th floor, Redwood City, CA 94063 by appointment. The public records may also be transmitted electronically by emailing tbeat@smcgov.org or calling 650-363-4467. **IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**, auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days' notice. Please call 650-363-4467 (voice) or email tbeat@smcgov.org to make such a request.



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

2023 Meeting Schedule

CSW meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Month	Date	Time
January	24	6:30 – 8:30 PM
February	28	6:30 – 8:30 PM
March	28	6:30 – 8:30 PM
April	25	6:30 – 8:30 PM
May	23	6:30 – 8:30 PM
June	27	6:30 – 8:30 PM
July	25	6:30 – 8:30 PM
August meeting Cancelled		
September	26	6:30 – 8:30 PM
October	24	6:30 – 8:30 PM
November	28	6:30 – 8:30 PM
December		No Meeting

CSW Retreat Prep

February 28, 2023

Summary

Interviews completed with Commissioners to

- understand interests pertaining to women's and girls' challenges and
- gather feedback on current CSW initiatives and meetings.

Ultimate goal to

- develop theme to guide CSW and
- discuss topics to be cultivated at March retreat.





CSW Mission

An Advisory Body to the Board of Supervisors, seeking to improve the quality of life for women of all ages in San Mateo County. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, the commission:

- **Identifies Women's Needs & then...**
- **Builds awareness through education**
- **Advocates their position and**
- **Advises the Board of Supervisors**

on matters concerning women.



Proposed Theme

The CSW will promote women's economic empowerment and independence through building awareness of the gender gaps, and identifying resources and partners to help bridge those gaps.

→ **Financial**

SMC women earn less than men for same work and have less in savings

→ **Educational**

SMC women are less confident on how to manage finances or invest than men

→ **Social**

SMC women's social networks are less helpful to boost their financial and economic freedom

—
**In preparation for March
Retreat ...**

**Provide feedback on
potential areas of focus and
other topics**



1. Financial Gap

SMC women face a gender financial gap that limits their financial and social success as well as their ability to live in the county,



2. Childcare Access

SMC has insufficient childcare options available to working families limiting their ability to work fully & contribute meaningful financial and social growth to our community.



3. Small Businesses

Women-owned businesses, solopreneurs and contractors are, compared to male-owned,

- perceived as less knowledgeable, and
- less likely to be approved for loans and secure investors.

Time for the Breakouts!

First silently then in groups:

1. What do you think of when you hear these topics?
2. How can you see yourself involved?

