

**City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023
APPROVED MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Scott Means, Vice President Samantha Green, Board Members Gerald Bryant, Bernie Wolf, and Dianne Yamashiro-Omi

Partial remote attendance: Michelle Buchholz

City staff: Marcie Johnson

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A Review and Approve June 22, 2023 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the June 22, 2023 minutes was made by President Means and seconded by Board Member Bryant. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Presentation on the City of Alameda's Response to Hate Incidents and Recommendation of Renewing the City of Alameda's Commitment to Participate in United Against Hate Week

The presentation was given by staff member Sarah Henry. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- On January 17, 2017, the City of Alameda adopted a resolution that reaffirms the City's commitment as a Sanctuary City to the values of dignity, inclusivity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of ethnic or nation origin, gender, race, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, or immigration status.
- In August 2020, the City Manager appointed a Steering Committee to develop a community-led process and workplan to address the future of policing and systemic racism in Alameda.
- On March 16, 2021, the Steering Committee presented final recommendations to the City Council that were unanimously approved. Staff brought a workplan to the City Council in July 2021, which expanded on the action items in the resolution declaring racism a public health emergency.

Public Comment – None.

Board Comments:

- Board Member Yamashiro-Omi requested an update on the Citywide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Plan (DEIB). Staff member Sarah Henry shared the current status and projected timeline.
- Board Member Bryant highlighted his concerns regarding information that was included in prior resolutions. He also requested a status update on the workplan to view ongoing and completed tasks. Staff member Marcie Johnson confirmed she will provide.
- President Means recommended the City hire a DEIB Director.

Staff member Sarah Henry thanked everyone for their time and suggested Board Members attend the City Council meeting to comment and express support once the DEIB workplan is presented (Fall 2023).

A motion to renew the City of Alameda's commitment to participate in United Against Hate Week and work with the Communications Director on actions of that week/drafting the resolution was made by President Means and seconded by Vice President Green. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

5-B Accept the Bi-Annual Status Report of Emergency Response Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in the City of Alameda

The presentation was given by staff member Marcie Johnson. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- *The Road Home: A Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent & Respond to Homelessness in Alameda.*
- In 2016, City Council tasked SSHRB with reviewing City policies and procedures around homelessness.
- In 2018, City Council adopted the Homelessness Report, supporting the recommendations to align local priorities, ordinances, and policies in support of ending homelessness through expanding permanent and affordable housing.
- In 2018, Council declared a shelter crisis and the City gained access to State of California (State) funding.
- In January of 2021, SSHRB began work on a five-year plan to address homelessness, culminating with the publication of *The Road Home*, which was approved by City Council on October 5, 2021.
- The City has contracted with Building Futures with Women and Children (Building Futures) to provide one-time, flexible funding for housing problem solving for a minimum of 12 households.
- The City has contracted with WeHOPE to provide weekly showers and laundry through their Dignity on Wheels program.
- Dine & Connect now has five regular, rotating congregations that host the program each Monday. The addition of a fifth member gives the program coverage on months where there are five Mondays. Each congregation is currently individually vetting plans to open to dine in on Mondays. Congregations who have accepted air filters through and Alameda County Memorandum of Understanding will act as clean air sites when open for in person dining on Monday afternoons.

- On July 18, 2023, City Council approved two new contracts; Mobile/Street Outreach and Day Center Services.
- Four City-owned homes now offer up to 26 beds for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Open since November 2022, supportive services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provided by VOL.
- Dignity Village opened to residents on May 10, 2023. On June 14, 35 days after opening, Dignity Village surpassed the 90 percent full occupancy requirement set by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by filling 44 of the 47 units, equaling 94 percent capacity. The next scheduled community meeting will be held on September 14 from 6 to 7 PM.

Public Comment – None.

Board Comment: Board Members asked clarifying questions and requested contact information for Joey Harrison with The Village of Love Foundation.

A motion to accept the Bi-Annual Status Report of Emergency Response Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in the City of Alameda was made by Board Member Bryant and seconded by Board Member Yamashiro-Omi. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, Buchholz and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

5-C Review Workgroup Reports and Approve Changing the Name “Infrastructure Workgroup” to “Outreach and Community Engagement Workgroup”

Public Comment – None.

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz/Wolf) – Went with City staff to tour the Midway Shelter in Alameda and discussed ideas of future collaboration.
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant) – Board Member Bryant shared a list of potential new names for the workgroup and confirmed the subcommittee will present the draft resolution at the August 24 meeting. Members asked for support connecting with the City of Davis.
- Infrastructure Workgroup (Means, Green) – President Means recommended changing the name from Infrastructure Workgroup to Outreach and Community Engagement Workgroup.

A motion to approve the name change was made by Board Member Bryant and seconded by Board Member Yamashiro-Omi. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

5-D Nominate and Elect Social Service Human Relations Board President and Vice President

Public Comment – None.

Board Member Yamashiro-Omi nominated Scott Means for President and Board Member Bryant motioned to elect. Ayes: Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, and Wolf. Nays: none. Abstained: President Scott Means. Motion

passed 4-0-1.

President Means nominated Samantha Green for Vice President and Board Member Yamashiro-Omi motioned to elect. Ayes: President Means, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, and Wolf. Nays: none. Abstained: Vice President Green. Motion passed 4-0-1.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff member Marcie Johnson shared an update following the July 18, 2023, City Council meeting.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Board Member Bryant voiced suggestions for future infographics.

President Means announced that Tuesday, August 1, 2023, is National Night Out.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Means adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.