

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Sanctuary Ordinance**

**Standing Committee**

**Minutes of 1-16-2025 Meeting**

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MEETING Convened at 5:06pm by Committee Chair, Guy Aronoff. Commissioners in attendance were Byrd Lochtie, Carol Larson, Larry Miller, Jamie Jensen, Peter Pennekamp, Jim Glover, Guy Aronoff, Richard Botzler.

The land acknowledgement was read by Jim, followed by a moment of silence.

As we gather today, we acknowledge that Eureka, California is ancestral territory of the Wiyot people. We honor all Indigenous people, territories, and Sovereign governments that share governance within Humboldt County, California. We gather with respect and gratitude to these Indigenous People.

We thank and honor the Indigenous Caretakers of this land who continue to cherish and protect it. Their elders have instructed the young to consider the seven generations ahead as they continue to protect the rights of the land and all people who live on it. We encourage all to align with and follow the lead of local Indigenous communities as they steward the land and protect all of its natural resources.

There were no requested adjustments to the agenda, but because of a large presence in the conference room and over fifty members of the public on Zoom, much of the preplanned agenda was eliminated.

Guest speakers present online included District Attorney, Stacey Eads and Fernando Paz (could not adjust sound so did not present or answer questions. Guest speakers present in the conference room included Supervisors Arroyo and Wilson (Supervisor Madrone appeared but did not stay as his presence would have caused a quorum of the Board of Supervisors to be present, which would constitute a Brown Act Violation), Sheriff Billy Honsal, and Brenda Perez of Centro de Pueblo.

It became immediately clear that our anticipated format would not be effective. Some introductory remarks were given and then the meeting evolved into a back and forth question and answer session from in the room and online. Much of this Q&A centered on the Sheriff and his plans for enforcing local and state law and the anticipated level of cooperation he, the supervisors, and legal representatives would demonstrate in a number of scenarios that some members anticipate in the near future. Brenda Perez was graciously willing to act as a Spanish language translator for almost the entire meeting.

The one action item under new business as a motion (Loctie-m, Pennekamp-s}, to present a letter to the Board of Supervisors, composed by Anne Hartline, regarding the state of discourse within the country especially on the subject of immigration and fear of mass deportations and urging they sign it as a statement. (See attachment below). After editing one line that may have appeared to have political bias, the letter was unanimously approved with plans to share it as public comment at an upcoming BOS meeting.

Upon completion of that action item, our speakers, guests, and interpreter were thanked for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

### **Humboldt County Support for All Humboldt County Community Members**

We, the undersigned, write to address the climate of concern within our community. Many residents have expressed deep apprehension about the hateful rhetoric and the growing divide currently evidenced across our nation—concerns that we fully share

We seek to assure our community that we will continue to stand firmly in support of our family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors, no matter where they are from, what language they speak, who they love, how they worship, or how they vote.

As local government and community leaders, we specifically and unequivocally reaffirm our commitment to supporting all residents in our community. A relationship of trust between

individuals and local agencies, including law enforcement and first responders, schools, hospitals, and service organizations, is essential to carrying out the basic functions of our community and assuring that all residents feel safe and healthy, and have access to the resources necessary to help make our community a safer and healthier place for all. We will ensure transparency of all immigration enforcement action conducted within our community. We acknowledge that trust cannot be cultivated or maintained when our local agencies cooperate with ICE.

We commit to taking all necessary steps to ensure that this trust remains intact and that the undersigned agencies and elected officials within the county of Humboldt make every effort to safeguard justice and equity for everyone. We stand prepared to assert and defend these commitments, including through multiple layers of legal and policy protections already in place at the state and local levels:

- **California Values Act (SB 54):** This act prohibits state and local police from using funds or personnel to support immigration enforcement. This includes preventing police from asking about an individual's immigration status, sharing a person's personal information with immigration authorities, or arresting anyone only for having a deportation order or for most other immigration violations.
- **TRUTH Act (AB 2792):** Ensures transparency and oversight regarding local law enforcement's communication with federal immigration authorities.
- **TRUST Act (AB 4):** Limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement can detain individuals on behalf of federal immigration authorities.
- **California Education Code:** Prohibits schools from adopting policies or practices that discriminate against or hinder access to school services based on immigration status and restricts schools from collecting or sharing information about immigration status.

Whatever the future holds, we are resilient and ready to meet any challenges presented to our community. We, the undersigned agencies, and elected officials within Humboldt County, remain committed to ensuring that our county is a place where all individuals are valued for their unique contributions and where every resident can live without fear. If you have yet to voice your support for this statement, please join us in contacting our Board of Supervisors, County Sheriff, and District Attorney.

In solidarity,

The Humboldt County Human Rights Commission, The League of Women Voters