

**City of Alameda, California  
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023  
APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Late: Board Member Michelle Buchholz (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

City staff: Andre Fairley, Marcie Johnson, Lisa Fitts, and Eric Fonstein

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-A Review and Approve October 26, 2023 Draft Minutes**

A motion to approve the October 26, 2023 minutes (with the correction on page three) was made by President Means and seconded by Vice President Green. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Pile, and Wolf. Nays: none. Abstained: Board Member Yamashiro-Omi. Motion passed 5-0-1.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Josh Altieri, Community Relations Manager with the Alameda Housing Authority, shared an update for projects that relate to SSHRB.

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, in attendance, shared her appreciation for SSHRB and its members. The Mayor shared that she makes it a point to attend at least one meeting for each of the Boards and Commissions.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A Discussion of the City of Alameda's Disaster Preparedness Plans**

The presentation was given by Captain Dallas Andrews, with the Alameda Fire Department. A copy of the presentation can be found here: [Disaster Plans and Public Information Presentation](#).

President Means thanked Captain Andrews for his presentation and opened the floor for clarifying questions:

- Board Member Yamashiro-Omi highlighted that the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) identified that 7% of our population speaks no English. She asked if that was accounted for regarding the online survey. Captain Andrews

stated that the survey is currently available in English only. However, the City's IT Department is working on a solution for non-English speaking residents.

- Board Member Buchholz asked if the survey must be completed for each individual within the same household, specifically regarding minors. Additionally, she wanted to know if there is specific information SSHRB can help disseminate throughout the community.
- President Means asked if the City of Alameda has an active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Captain Andrews confirmed that we do, sharing there are an estimated 300 rostered Members and 180 active Members.
- Board Member Buchholz asked if the Fire Department offers outreach educational services. Captain Andrews recommended [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Public Comment – None.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft applauded SSHRB Members for their continued service and dedication to the Board.

### **5-B Discussion of Community Connection and Bringing People Together for Reasonable Discourse**

Staff Member Fairly introduced this item by providing a brief background. Board Members discussed their thoughts and ideas for bringing people together:

- Host a kickoff event promoting getting to know your neighbors.
- Pull ideas from Alameda's "Everyone Belongs Here" campaign.
- "Couch conversations" where there is a specific topic and guidelines for the conversation.
- Generate a list of topics for conversation.

Public Comment:

- Kim Murphy with St. Vincent de Paul shared that the faith-based community will be hosting a community event on December 12 at 5:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church (Zoom available).

Staff Member Johnson shared an overview of the collaborative efforts between the Alameda Free Library and the Housing and Human Services Division as they continue to support individuals who may become or are currently suffering from homelessness.

Vice President Green and Board Member Buchholz volunteered to assemble a list of service opportunities for MLK Day of Service on January 15 and asked if the city would be willing to post links to events on the City of Alameda website. Staff Member Johnson said she would confirm what we are allowed to post on the City website. Alternatively offering to share this information on the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families (ACCYF) website.

SSHRB will continue to discuss this item at future meetings and will develop an action plan for community meetings and public awareness.

### **5-C Discuss and Review Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Reports**

Public Comment – None

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz, Wolf, Pile) – The work group recently met and is planning to start distributing public awareness campaign posters. City staff will be rescheduling the January meeting as it falls on a Holiday.
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant) – The Poetry Slam was a success. The work group shared pictures from the event and plans to host another in 2024. Staff Member Johnson shared that the Season for Nonviolence Speech Contest will occur on Saturday, March 16.
- Outreach and Community Engagement (Means, Green) – The work group continues to present the CNA to various Boards and Commissions. The next presentation will be on January 11, 2024, at the Recreation and Park Commission.

#### **5-D Discuss of Social Service Human Relations Board FY 2024-25 Work Plan**

President Means introduced this item, highlighting that during the January meeting, SSHRB will review the plan for the past year and identify three (3) new or continued areas to focus on in 2024.

Public Comment – None.

Board Question/Comment:

- Board Member Pile asked for an update regarding The Road Home. Staff Member Johnson shared that the current [The Road Home: A 5-Year Plan to Prevent and Respond to Homelessness in Alameda](#) was adopted by City Council in 2021. SSHRB will discuss adding this topic to the Workgroup Reports at the January meeting.

#### **5-E Recommendation to Approve the 2024 Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) Meeting Schedule with Any Necessary Changes**

Public Comment – None.

Staff Member Johnson proposed that the Board institute a social time that is agendaized and occurs prior to one (1) of the regularly scheduled meetings.

A motion to approve the 2024 Social Service Human Relations Board Meeting Schedule with the addition of one (1) social dinner prior to a regularly scheduled meeting was made by Board Member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board Member Bryant. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Buchholz, Pile, Yamashiro-Omi, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 7-0.

### **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Staff Member Johnson shared an update on behalf of the City of Alameda's Housing and Human Services division and details regarding the Point-in-Time Count to be held on January 25, 2024.

### **7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

President Means will be presenting the CDBG Needs Assessment to City Council on December 19.

Staff Member Johnson recognized Staff Member Fonstein for his long-time service with SSHRB. This was his last meeting as part of the Board.

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

President Means adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.