



Commission on the Status of Women

**Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting – March 15, 2023
APPROVED MINUTES**

The meeting convened at 6:18pm with Chairperson Marasovic presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri
Absent: Henneman, Posey
Excused: Simon

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Comments from the Public

- Public attendance: 0
- Public comments: 1

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Action

Item # 2: The Commission on the Status of Women moved to amend the agenda as follows: Item 14 - deletion of the word “elderly” and replaced with “older”; deletion of Item 15 - “Legislative and Council Update” as to be incorporated in the Chair report; deletion of Item 17 “Good of the Order” then approved the March 15, 2023 agenda as amended.

**M/S/C: Marasovic/Rodriguez
Ayes: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri
Absent: Henneman, Posey
Excused: Simon**

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Item # 3: The Commission on the Status of Women approved the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

**M/S/C: Marasovic/Seshagiri
Ayes: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri
Absent: Henneman, Posey
Excused: Simon**

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Item # 5: Leslie Berkler, Executive Director, Women’s Daytime Drop-In Center, presented on needs of low-income women. Discussion. No action taken.

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Item # 6: Berkeley Police Department presentation to be rescheduled. No discussion. No action taken.

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Item # 7: Chairperson’s Report on CEDAW and purpose, function of the Commission on the Status of Women. Discussion. No action taken.

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Item # 8: The Commission on the Status of Women passed a motion and agreed to read the Land Acknowledgment recognizing Berkeley as the Ancestral, Unceded Home of the Ohlone People as passed by City Council on October 11, 2022 at the start of all future commission meetings.

M/S/C: Seshagiri/Rodriguez
Ayes: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri
Absent: Henneman, Posey
Excused: Simon

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Item # 9: The Commission on the Status of Women voted to change the start time from 6pm to 7pm of future commission meetings and will continue to meet at the South Berkeley Senior Center in Conference Room A (Large Conference Room); subject to change if Commission takes future action.

M/S/C: Marasovic/Rodriguez
Ayes: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri
Absent: Henneman, Posey
Excused: Simon

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Item # 10: The Commission on the Status of Women voted to recommend that Council write a letter to the Governor, State Attorney General, State Senate, and State Assembly in support of the Governor’s decision to not renew a \$54 million-dollar contract with Walgreens’ due to Walgreens’ decision to not make available reproductive choice medication.

M/S/C: Marasovic/Seshagiri

Ayes: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri

Absent: Henneman, Posey

Excused: Simon

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Item # 11: The Commission on the Status of Women voted to write a letter to Council in support of the Homeless Services Panel of Experts’ letter of recommendation to City Council to allocate funding towards a transition house for women and women-identifying fleeing from domestic violence, gender-based violence, intimate partner violence and sex trafficking.

M/S/C: Rodriguez/Seshagiri

Ayes: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri

Absent: Henneman, Posey

Excused: Simon

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Item # 12: Discussion on surge in suicide rates among young girls and developing a strategy to acquire additional local information addressing suicide prevention among young girls in Berkeley. No action taken.

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Item # 13: The Commission on the Status of Women passed a motion for the Chair to distribute information and advise Council during public comment at the next council meeting that April 11-17 commemorates Black Maternal Health Week; October is Black Maternal Health Month, and the last week of August recognizes Black Breastfeeding Week.

M/S/C: Marasovic/Rodriguez

Ayes: Marasovic, Rodriguez, Seshagiri

Absent: Henneman, Posey

Excused: Simon

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Item # 14: Discussion on older female owners approached by speculators and strategy to advise them of their rights. No action taken.

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Item # 16: Discussion of Vice-Chair nomination and election at future meeting. No action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Shallon Allen, Secretary
Commission on the Status of Women**