



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: August 22, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: N/A
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dept. Director George Chapjian, Community Services Director
Contact Info: Eva Camarena, Executive Assistant
(805) 568-2467
SUBJECT: Commission for Women Requests Approval of Amended Bylaws

County Counsel Concurrence

Yes

Other Concurrence:

N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the amended Commission for Women Bylaws (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(2) and (5) of the CEQA guidelines because they consist of general policy and procedure making and administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Commission for Women (Commission) is seeking approval from the Board of Supervisors for the amended bylaws, which include the following updates:

- Updating language to align with current practices
- Clarifying language throughout the bylaws
- Addition of a nomination procedure for Co-Chair and Co-Vice-Chair positions

These amendments have been carefully considered to ensure that the Commission practices remain relevant and effective in fulfilling their mission. The new positions can promote greater inclusivity and collaboration within the Commission, allowing for a more diverse leadership representation.

Background:

Appointed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, the Commission for Women is an advisory group dedicated to promoting the well-being and equal status of women. Formed in 1973, the Commission has actively worked to better the community for more than 50 years. Comprised of a diverse group of energetic and committed women who are active community members, the Commission represents the five supervisorial districts.

Members of the Commission are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and can serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Each supervisorial district has three appointed members. The officers of the Commission include the Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Commission for Women focuses on promoting equitable and equal status, as well as the well-being of women in Santa Barbara County. It plays a crucial advisory role to the Board, especially in critical areas affecting women, particularly those in the greatest need. To achieve its purpose, the Commission collaborates with other boards and community groups, facilitates, recognizes, and recommends programs, gathers and disseminates information, holds public hearings, and advises the Board of Supervisors.

Amending the bylaws to include the option of a Co-chair and/or Vice Co-chair position, serves a crucial purpose in enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of leadership roles in the Commission for Women. This new structure may provide a supportive environment for individuals who may not have traditionally taken up leadership roles and to accommodate members of the Commission who lead busy lifestyles, juggling various outside commitments such as their career, family responsibilities, and other personal obligations. By having Chair, Co-chair, Vice Chair and Vice Co-chair, the Commission can provide an alternative for the members, who generously volunteer their time. This flexibility allows the commission to tap into a diverse pool of talent and expertise, promoting greater inclusivity and representation, and contribute effectively to the Commission's mission. While Vice Chairs remain valuable positions, the equitable distribution of leadership responsibilities through co-chairing allows the Commission for Women to create a more accessible and inclusive space for all members of the Commission.

During its meeting on August 9, 2023, the Commission voted to approve the amended bylaws attached hereto as Attachment A. These amended bylaws are now before the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Performance Measure: N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No fiscal impact.

Key Contract Risks: N/A

Staffing Impacts: N/A

Special Instructions:

1. Send an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Eva Camarena at ecamarena@countyofsb.org

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Attachments:

Attachment A: Commission for Women Amended Bylaws (Clean Copy)

Attachment B: Amended CFW Bylaws with Tracked Changes

Attachment C: Commission for Women Original Bylaws

Authored by:

Eva Camarena, Executive Assistant

cc:

George Chapjian, Community Services Director