Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Commission on Justice and Gender

Date: November 12, 2026
Time: 12 pm **–** 1:30 pm
Location: Simpkins Community Room
979 17th Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Commission Purpose: *The purpose of the Commission on Justice and Gender is to identify and address issues related to women and girls directly impacted by the criminal justice system and/or gender-based violence, including trauma caused by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, separation from children, lack of housing, and sexual abuse in custody, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in an effort to reduce harm to women and their families and end intergenerational incarceration.* (Ord. 5329 § 2, 2020; Ord. 5353 § 1, 2020)

Introductory Items

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call (Commissioners)
2. Check in
3. Public Comment -

   Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 3 minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take action on or discuss any topic not on today's agenda, but are permitted to ask staff to follow up and/or place the topic at a future meeting. Public comment will not exceed thirty (30) minutes. If there are additional persons still wishing to address the Commission after this allotted period, public comment may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

Regular Agenda

4. Approve Minutes from August 13, 2026, meeting (Action Item)

5. Announcements by Commissioners and Subcommittees (or Commissioner Announcements or Reports) – (Informational only)
    a. Number of women in custody
    b. Number of safe releases between August and November 2026
    c. Family & Child Services report on visits
    d. Subcommittee Updates
        i. Release & Reentry Subcommittee Update
        ii. Housing & Healthcare Update
        iii. Families Youth & Prevention Update
    e. Holiday Card workgroup

6. Consider the drafted flier and take related actions (Discussion & Action)

7. Consider revised by-laws updating meeting frequency and chair rotation structure, adopt the 2027 meeting schedule, and take related actions (Discussion & Action)
    a. Adopt 2027 Meeting Schedule
        i. If bylaws are approved
            1 January 14, 2027
            2 March 11, 2027
            3 May 13, 2027
            4 July 8, 2027
            5 September 9, 2027
            6 November 18, 2027 (November 11 is a holiday)
        ii. If bylaws are not approved
            1 February 11, 2027
            2 May 13, 2027
            3 August 12, 2027
            4 November 18, 2027 (November 11 is a holiday)
    b. Take action on subcommittees:
        i. If the by-laws are approved, consider dissolving subcommittees no later than January 1, 2027; or
        ii. If the by-laws are not approved and subcommittees continue, nominate and appoint Megan Rorie from New Life Community Services to the Release & Reentry subcommittee
    c. Attachments:
        i. Revised by-Laws (redline)
        ii. Revised by-laws (clean)

8. Consider the Lived Experience Guidelines and take related actions (Discussion and potential action)

9. Review Workplan and take related actions – (Discussion and action)

10. Upcoming Agenda items *(Informational only)*
    a. Decide on organization representing the target population due to turnover from Housing Matters
    b. Chair selection in May

11. Adjournment

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you wish to attend this meeting and require special assistance to participate, please call 831-454-3400 (TTY/TDD: 711) at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.