

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Human Relations Commission](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment for Human Relations Commission - Oppose Agenda Item #5.1
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:49:50 AM

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Please distribute the following Public Comment to Human Relations Commissioners prior to tonight's meeting.

Dear HRC Commissioners:

South Bay People Power OPPOSES the proposed revised ordinance because it lacks an explicit statement codifying an ongoing role for the HRC and a City-wide commitment to ensure that Chula Vista becomes a truly Welcoming City. We urge you to add the following provision: ***"B. The ongoing duty of the Commission shall be to help the City fulfill its commitment to become a truly Welcoming City, by identifying needs and measures to protect the rights and improve the well-being of immigrants, and by using resources from networks like Welcoming America."***

Since 2016, community members and immigrant rights organizations have advocated to make Chula Vista a "welcoming" place for all, regardless of immigration status. In 2017, a key resolution and this ordinance codified the City's commitment to strive to be truly Welcoming, recreated the HRC, and assigned the HRC a primary role to support the City in its commitment.

The proposed ordinance on today's agenda removes any mention of "Welcoming," and in-so-doing, undercuts the City's commitment and trust with immigrant community members, and eliminates the critical role of the HRC to help protect immigrant rights and promote well-being. In our proposed amendment (above), we insist that there be an ongoing role for the HRC to improve efforts to become a Welcoming City for immigrants and that this historic role should be identified explicitly in the ordinance.

We urge you to acknowledge the strong recommendation from our members and community advocates who have deep ties in Chula Vista and many years of active

participation with the City and HRC: Please amend the ordinance by adding the provision proposed above. The aspirational goal and vision that the term “Welcoming” engenders and positive collaborative community efforts should not be abandoned, erased, or forgotten!

Sincerely,
Margaret A. Baker, DrPH
Convener, South Bay People Power

South Bay People Power promotes social justice through nonpartisan civic engagement.