

Dear Honorable Councilmember,

Our commission continues to be excited and passionate about our work for our fellow residents. As a reminder, we send these monthly one-page letters when we have meetings; we have, because of issues around quorum, been unable to meet since September. These letters serve as executive summaries of our official minutes and your appointed commissioner may of course happily share additional insights.

Unfortunately, we have not met since September 2019 because City Council and the Clerk's Office did not fill vacant seats in [INSERT CURRENT VACANCIES]. These persistent vacancies left us with no margin for quorum. When some of our commissioners faced the normal, everyday challenges coming to meetings that can be expected of a volunteer body, we found ourselves unable to meet for six months.

Beginning in December 2018, our commissioners recruited aggressively from our own networks to try to sustain our commission, but found that the Clerk's Office had locked access to the online application form for the first two months of the year. In March, I personally called every councilmember's office with a vacant seat to request they fill their seats; this netted nine applications. I reached out again October and while council offices were responsive, yet again in November we were unable to meet because of too many vacancies. As of this meeting, the seats remained unfilled. If we are able to meet in December, we will have met 3 times in 2019, of the 10 meets we each expected to have.

Each of the commissioners is a volunteer; most of us serve on multiple boards, commissions, and in leadership of community organizations. We chose to serve on this commission to support its mission and our fellow residents. That we have been unable to do this work is deeply disappointing to each of us.

To the staff for each of the districts who have vacancies on our commission: please fill them. You must have residents who are interested in supporting the human rights policy of the City of San José. We would like to meet them and work together to improve our shared community.

Respectfully and in-service,



Jessica Dickinson Goodman  
Chair,  
The San José Human Services Commission