

**CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE**  
**SPECIAL ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS COMMISSION MEETING -MINUTES**  
Thursday, March 27, 2025  
1415 Santa Anita Avenue, South El Monte, California 91733

Director of Community Services Ariana De La Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner(s): Briones, Fonseca, Gaeta-Anguiano, Gutierrez, Strong

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ariana De La Cruz, Director of Community Services, Nancy Rodriguez, Community Services Analyst, and Noelia Saucedo, Senior Recreation Leader

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Briones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Mrs. De La Cruz took this moment and had everyone in attendance introduce themselves.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez, seconded by Commissioner Gaeta-Anguiano to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Briones, Fonseca, Gaeta-Anguiano, Gutierrez, and Strong

**NAYS:** Commissioner(s): None

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. De La Cruz opened public comment; there being none Mrs. De La Cruz closed public comment.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fonseca, second by Commissioner Briones to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Briones, Fonseca, Gaeta-Anguiano, Gutierrez, and Strong

**NAYS:** Commissioner(s): None

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7a. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaeta-Anguiano, seconded Commissioner Strong to nominate Commissioner Fonseca for Chair. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Briones, Fonseca, Gaeta-Anguiano, Gutierrez, and Strong

**NAYS:** Commissioner(s): None

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaeta-Anguiano, seconded by Commissioner Fonseca to nominate Commissioner Gutierrez for Vice Chair. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Briones, Fonseca, Gaeta-Anguiano, Gutierrez, and Strong

**NAYS:** Commissioner(s): None

Mrs. De La Cruz turned over the meeting to Chair Fonseca.

#### **7b. WOMEN AND GIRLS EMPOWERMENT EVENT**

Mrs. De La Cruz stated that the city established the Advancement of Women and Girls Commission to assist women and girls in areas where support is not easily accessible. She mentioned that the city has hosted a Women and Girls Empowerment Event, which typically takes place in March. However, since the commission's first meeting was held in March instead of January, the event was postponed. She proposed rescheduling it to Saturday, May 17th, allowing ample time for preparation.

The commission proposed this year's theme to focus on mental health, aligning with May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Commissioner Briones suggested designating a separate room for workshops tailored to younger participants on the event day. It was agreed to revisit this discussion at the next meeting on Wednesday, April 9th, with agenda items due by Monday, April 7th, at 8:00 a.m.

Additionally, Mrs. De La Cruz informed the commission that the city has allocated funds for conferences and encouraged commissioners interested in attending to reach out to her or Miss Saucedo with their selections.

#### **8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS, INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS**

Commissioner Briones nothing to report.

Chair Fonseca reported her attendance to the Women Empowerment conference back in August.

Commissioner Gaeta-Anguiano nothing to report.

Vice Chair Gutierrez nothing to report.

Commissioner Strong nothing to report.

#### **9. CORRESPONDENCE – None.**

#### **10. COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA**

##### **10a. COMMISSIONER GAETA-ANGUIANO**

- 1. Discussion and consideration to start women and girls empowerment workshops.**

Commissioner Gaeta-Anguiano would like to have workshops that are age appropriate for all women and girls with different topics. This item will be continued at the next meeting in April where Commissioners will provide potential workshop topics for discussion.

A motion was made Commissioner Gaeta-Anguiano, seconded by Vice Chair Gutierrez to continue this item. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Briones, Gaeta-Anguiano, Strong, Vice Chair Gutierrez, and Chair Fonseca

**NAYS:** Commissioner(s): None

**2. Discussion and consideration to solicit feedback from South El Monte residents via public survey.**

Mrs. De La Cruz stated that she would task staff to create a short survey to include in the event tentatively scheduled in May, providing an incentive for participants that complete the survey. This item will be continued at the April 9th meeting.

A motion was made Commissioner Gaeta-Anguiano, seconded by Vice Chair Gutierrez to have a survey at the May 17th event. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Briones, Gaeta-Anguiano, Strong, Vice Chair Gutierrez, and Chair Fonseca

**NAYS:** Commissioner(s): None

**3. Discussion and consideration to organizing focus groups for senior female residents and local female students to help identify the needs and/or interests of the community.**

This agenda item will be continued to a future meeting pending the results of the survey.

**1. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:15 p.m. Chair Fonseca adjourned the meeting to a regular Advancement of Women and Girls Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

  
Ariana De La Cruz, Director of Community Services

  
Chair, Christina Fonseca