



**City of Santa Barbara**  
**RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION BOARD**  
**MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2018**

5:30 P.M.  
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden Street  
[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Dan Herlinger, *Vice Chair*  
Bruce Wollenberg, *Secretary*  
Richard Axilrod  
Jeremy Bassan  
Robert Burke  
Dan Collie  
Evan D. Crook  
Jeana Dressel  
Justin Dullum  
Holly L. Garcin  
Lynn Goebel  
Rene Gomez  
Hector Sanchez  
Dianne L. Kryter  
Yuet (Connie) Ng

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Mayor Cathy Murillo

**STAFF:**

Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist  
Joel Estrada, Rental Housing Mediation Specialist

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Herlinger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Herlinger, Secretary Wollenberg, Board Members, Axilrod, Bassan, Burke, Collie, Crook, Dressel, Dullum, Garcin, Goebel, Gomez, Kryter, Sanchez, Ng

Absent: Crook, Garcin, Gomez, Sanchez

**STAFF PRESENT**

Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist  
Joel Estrada, Rental Housing Mediation Specialist

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

A. Public Comment:

Ms. Sandy Kievman, Aide to Mayor Murillo, attended the meeting, and stated that she was there to take notes for the Mayor.

B. Approval of Minutes:

**Motion:** Approve the minutes of the Rental Housing Mediation Board (RHMB) meeting of **November 9, 2017**, as submitted.

**Action:** Collie/Dressel, 11/0/0 (Crook, Garcin, Gomez, Sanchez absent.)

## 1. ANNUAL RECRUITMENT TO CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUPS

### Mayor and Council Appointments to Boards and Commissions

#### A. Appointments:

On December 12, 2017 the following appointments were made:

- Board Member Dressel, was reappointed to the Landlord category for a term to expire on December 31, 2021;
- Board Member Herlinger, was reappointed to the Homeowner category for a term to expire on December 31, 2021;
- Board Member Bassan, was appointed to the Landlord category for term to expire on December 31, 2018; and
- Board Member Ng, was appointed to the Landlord category for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

#### B. Mediator Term Expired:

- Certificate of Recognition

Former Chair Leesa Beck was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from Ms. Bifano for her exemplary service as a City Council appointed Mediator. Ms. Beck recently served on the Board from June 2011 through December 2017, and previously served from July 2007 through December 2010. The Certificate was signed by Mayor Cathy Murillo, Mr. George Buell Community Development Director, and Ms. Bifano. Former Chair Beck was also presented with an engraved gavel and a block with the City of Santa Barbara's emblem as a remembrance of her two terms as RHMB Chair.

## 2. OFFICER ELECTIONS

### Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Discussion was held and a list of nominees for election of Officers was presented. The final slate of Officers were:

- Chair Dan Herlinger
- Vice Chair Bruce Wollenberg
- Secretary Hector Sanchez

**Motion:** Approve the above-stated slate of Officers.

**Action:** 9/2/0 (Burke, Goebel opposed. Crook, Garcin, Gomez, Sanchez absent.)  
Motion carried.

**CASELOAD REPORT AND MEDIATOR TRAINING**

(.5 hours of Mediator training was provided in compliance with the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act – Regulations)

**A. Statistical Second Quarter and Year-to-Date Reports for FY 2017-2018:**

Mr. Estrada reviewed the Statistical Reports for Second Quarter and Year-to-Date Totals for FY 2017-2018.

**B. Mediator Training:**

Ms. Bifano provided an interactive skill building training on *Active Listening Techniques*.

**4. RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION PROGRAM FUNDING FY 2018-2019**

Human Service Funding:

Chair Herlinger reported that on February 1, 2018, along with Ms. Bifano and Mr. Estrada, they participated in a funding presentation before the Community Development Human Services Committee (CDHSC). The requested grant was in the amount of \$30,000. The purpose of the funds will be to contribute towards the cost of the Program.

Funding recommendations from the CDHSC is scheduled to be heard before the Santa Barbara City Council on March 27, 2018, for decision by Council.

**5. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Burke reported that there were no updates. Board Member Dullum volunteered to join the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, which is now comprised of Board Members Burke, Herlinger, Axilrod, and Dullum. They will hold their next meeting in approximately one week.

**6. STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Bifano provided an update on the Tenant/Landlord Task Force. She shared Sue Gray's (Community Development Business Manager) summary of City Council's actions regarding the Task Force's recommendations made on January 30, 2018, which stated Council approved the following:

1. Direct staff to work on enhanced tenant and landlord education; and
2. Refer the following two items to the Ordinance Committee:
  - Joint Protection and Accountability Initiative; and
  - Tenant Displacement and Relocation Assistance for Mass Evictions.

Board Member Goebel stated that she would locate a Santa Barbara News – Press article she had read regarding the Tenant/Landlord Task Force and share it with the Board at a later time.

Ms. Bifano further shared that the video regarding the January 30, 2018 City Council meeting and the Council Agenda Report could be viewed online at the City's website: [www.santabarbaraca.gov](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov). She also stated that she would email to the Board Sue Gray's written summary of the above described Council meeting.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Herlinger announced the recent awards that Ms. Bifano received on behalf of being named a Local Hero in the Santa Barbara Independent, Vol. 32, No. 619. Chair Herlinger emphasized the importance of the awards received by Ms. Bifano, and stated that these awards enhance the credibility of the Program. The Board concurred. The awards included:

1. Independent Local Hero Award for "Magical Mediation";
2. Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for "Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Community" from Salud O. Carbjal, Member of Congress;
3. State of California Senate Local Hero of the Year Certificate of Recognition for "Outstanding Leadership" from Hannah-Beth Jackson, Nineteenth Senate District;
4. California State Legislature Assembly Local Heroes Award Certificate of Recognition for "Outstanding Contributions Mediating Housing Disputes" from Assembly Member Monique Limón, Californian State Legislature – AD 37;
5. City of Santa Barbara Local Hero Award for "30 Years of Outstanding Service to the Local Community" from Mayor-Elect Cathy Murillo; and
6. County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors "Certificate of Recognition upon receiving the 2017 Santa Barbara Independent Local Heroes Award" from Das Williams, First District Supervisor and Joan Hartmann, Third District Supervisor.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.