



## Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women AGENDA REPORT

DATE: October 4, 2019

AGENDA OF: October 9, 2019

SUBJECT: Motion to Implore Mayor Watkins to Re-Agendize the Censure of  
Councilmembers Krohn and Glover

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Reconsider 9/25/2019 CPVAW Action to Implore Mayor Watkins to Re-agendize the Censure of Councilmembers Krohn and Glover and to correct public media image.

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**BACKGROUND:** On September 25, 2019, the Commission voted unanimously on a motion to Implore Mayor Watkins to re-agendize the censure of Councilmembers Chris Krohn and Drew Glover. However, we (Commissioners Krishna Leikind-Williamson and Ann Simonton) felt unprepared for the vote and voted in solidarity instead of voting from a more informed stance. We have had time to reflect on our vote, and have come to the conclusion to rescind our support of the motion. Our reasons differ and are listed below.

My name is Krishna Leikind-Williamson and I do not support the censure of Councilmembers Chris Krohn and Drew Glover. I am one of the interns mentioned in the investigative report that witnessed the interaction between Councilmembers Donna Meyers and Drew Glover. I did not find that interaction unique to Councilmember Glover. In fact, a meeting that I attended with Councilmember Glover and at least nine other interns, was interrupted by a staff member for running a few minutes behind. No recourse was sought then, and I find it hypocritical that recourse was sought against Councilmember Glover for similar behavior.

As a member of CPVAW, I am not convinced that Council members Chris Krohn and Drew Glover intended to perpetuate violence, bullying, or harassment against the victims based on their gender. I am not disputing whether those actions occurred or not. I've interned in the office for 10 months, and I've noticed a larger female to male ratio, amounting to about 2 females for every 1 male. I think it's safe to say that most of the recipients of inappropriate conduct will be female. This is unfortunate and I think it needs work, however, the ratio doesn't fully convince me in accepting a gender-based motive. Therefore, I do not support the motion to implore Mayor Watkins to re-agendize the censure based on the beliefs held by the majority of CPVAW.

I like to think that we were selected for the commission because of our commitment to ending and preventing violence against women, as well as for the diversity of our views. It's my hope that we can continue forward in collectively carrying out the mission of CPVAW.

My name is Ann Simonton and I do not support bringing back the censure as an agenda item for the City Council. I am especially concerned that 72 hours notice was not given to commissioners prior to the introduction of the original motion put on our agenda and then an immediate request to vote on this item. We were given no time at all to adequately prepare ourselves to understand the ramifications and context of what the re-agendizing of a public censure represents. The morning after the vote, I wrote the entire commission requesting to rescind my vote for the motion as passed. Press releases and the letter to the Mayor were sent out within hours of my request. We were given no time to properly review documents, to comment, or understand how one comments on changes they wanted. I have yet to be onboarded and this is the 9th month of serving on this Commission.

I wholeheartedly support city employees and staff to experience respect and dignity in the workplace and to find closure for past abuse. Has HR adequately trained its employees and volunteers on what to do when encountering disturbing behavior, as it arises and before problems become untenable? The city of Santa Cruz must work harder to set protective limits on workplace conduct and arm all workers to learn specific steps they can take as soon as problems occur. Behavior displayed by the City Council during its Sept. 24th, 2019 meeting confirms there is a dire need for mediation, conflict management and more to ensure they can function as an effective body for our city. Tabling the public censure and first allowing positive next steps be addressed is what I believe most Human Relations departments would suggest, given their obvious need to build bridges of commonality among the overt divisiveness displayed.

On Sept. 26th the day after the vote with CPVAW, I emailed HR questions in an attempt to inform myself if sexual harassment was indicated in any of the charges. Lisa Murphy called me at 3pm confirming there was no sexual harassment charges. At 4:00 pm I received a call from the Chair asking me why I was questioning HR.

I believe that numerous public media claims made by Chair Grossman have done enormous harm to the healing of our City Council and have been used hundreds if not thousands of times in mainstream and social media providing fodder with statements such as: *“On the night of Sept. 24, there was a proposed reprimand of the two council members on the agenda, but the **victims’ voices and public were silenced** when a majority of the council moved to table the censure item, an unprecedented act of political manipulation.”* His claim that victims did not speak or were silenced, is patently false as they were invited to speak first during the public comment section of the meeting. Some have actually stated the Commission’s actions have nothing to do with the Recall effort. The context in which our Commission’s actions exist need to be addressed. If CPVAW is indeed not acting to help the recall effort, why wasn’t that made clear in every public media statement and in the letter to Watkins?

Grossman’s op-ed, in my humble opinion, would have been much better served had he focused on the wonderful work this commission does and is aiming to do, especially the timely upcoming conference

and the importance of preventing violence through bystander intervention. Instead, he decided to inflame a situation that is ripping our community to shreds. According to Stephan Bianchi, Santa Cruz Together is pushing a slick mailer implying that Glover and Krohn are responsible for the deaths of 5 people and have wasted nearly a million dollars of city money. This leaves me wondering why is this city commission helping a moneyed recall effort get needed signatures as their deadline approaches, that stoops to using baseless and hateful charges, backed by no evidence?

**DISCUSSION:** Consider our statements, questions and discuss all points raised, as members see fit.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

Submitted by:

Krishna Leikind-Williamson - Commissioner, CPVAW

Ann Simonton - Commissioner, CPVAW