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And now it's on: Former councilwoman takes on Eureka Women's March

Linda Atkins: 'I'll get it going'

[Philip Santos](#) January 4, 2019 at 8:26 pm



Thousands participated in the 2018 Eureka Women's March. The 2019 version appears to be on track again, with guidance from former Eureka Councilwoman Linda Atkins (not pictured). (Jose Quezada — For the Times-Standard)

Former Eureka City Councilwoman Linda Atkins is working to host a women's march on Jan. 19 in Eureka, she said Friday evening. "I waited for everyone else to apply. Nobody did," she said. "(The march) may be simple, but I'll get it going."

Atkins said she decided to host a march because many of the people she spoke to were disappointed that the initial march set for Jan. 19 had been postponed. Atkins said she has been in the women's movement since the 1970s and has fought for civil rights her entire life. Why the organizers behind the initial march have postponed it is lost on her. "I don't know what their issues were," she said. "I'm hoping everyone feels included in the march."

A statement made by the organizers of the initial march states "the majority of the leadership team is white, and planning for this event has been centered around our experiences," so, "we are attempting to make things right by taking this time to create a more balanced leadership team."

In an interview on KHSU, Kelsey Reedy, Allison Edrington and Beth Wiley, spokespeople of the Eureka Women's March, stated the march was not canceled, but rather postponed.

In the KHSU interview, radio host Lorna Bryant helped quantify the sentiment.

"The Latino community was concerned about police presence during marches. That's something that you possibly wouldn't think about as a white woman," she said. "Safety, other concerns through your lens may be different than through the lens of women of color or people of color." President of the Eureka NAACP Chapter Sharrone Blanck applauded the move in a statement from the organizers of the initial parade.

"The organizers want to build relationships with the larger community of women so that the march actually reflects the diversity of experiences of women in Humboldt County," she said. "The organizers checked themselves. They want to do it right, not just have a march."

Atkins, however, believes the march should not have been postponed, stating last year's march appeared to be very diverse. She said she will make an effort to reach out to the local indigenous, Latino, and black communities in an attempt to host a variety of speakers.

"There is going to be a lot of work in the next two weeks," she said.

Atkins said a Facebook page with more details will be created for the event which will likely be titled, "2019 Eureka Women's March." Organizers of the postponed women's march did not respond to a request for comment Friday afternoon.

Philip Santos can be reached at 707-441-0506.