



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

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(213) 738-2788

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

September 29, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

[Via Microsoft Teams](#)

or Call In at +1 (213) 204-2512

Phone Conference ID: 831 349 137#

Committee Chair: Commissioner Gay Yuen | **Vice Chair:** Ilan Davidson

Committee Members: Helen Chin, Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Serena Oberstein,
Fredrick Sykes

Staff: Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, Pierre Arreola, Joshua Parr, Paul Smith

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement (2:00)**
- 2. Review & Approval of Minutes (August 25, 2026) (2:02)**
- 3. Discussion & Action: Human Rights Award Nominations (2:05)**
 - a. Action to Consider:** Committee recommendation to General Commission regarding the recipient of the 2026-2027 Human Rights Award.
- 4. Discussion & Action: Human Rights Cities & Territories Campaign (2:35)**
 - a. Action to Consider:** Committee recommendation to General Commission regarding enlistment of LA County government in United Cities & Local Governments' Human Rights Cities & Territories Campaign.
- 5. Discussion: Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team Update (3:05)**
- 6. Public Comment (3:20)**
- 7. Commissioner & Staff Announcements (3:25)**
- 8. Adjournment (3:30)**

Next Meeting Date – October 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by virtual conference communication from the following locations: Gay Yuen (517 S. Orange Ave., Apt. E, Monterey Park, 91755); Helen Chin (5844 Bowcroft St., Unit #4, Los Angeles CA 90016); Ilan Davidson (1435 W. 7th St., San Pedro, CA 90732); Jeanette Ellis-Royston (1460 E. Holt Ave., Rm. 6, Pomona, CA 91767); Serena Oberstein (17509 Romar St., Northridge, CA 91325); Fredrick Sykes (3537 Samantha Ave., West Covina, CA 91792). An asterisk () denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item. Meetings are held in English and accessible to persons with disabilities. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission on Human Relations at (213) 738-7288 or info@hrc.lacounty.gov at least 3 business days before the meeting.*



Los Angeles County

Commission on Human Relations

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE **MEETING MINUTES**

August 25, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conference

PRESENT: Gay Yuen Ilan Davidson Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Fredrick Sykes Serena Zeise-Oberstein
ABSENT: Helen Chin	
STAFF: Robin Toma Robert Sowell Pierre Arreola	Paul Smith Joshua Parr

I. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

Chair Gay Yuen called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM with a quorum in attendance. Staff Pierre Arreola then read the County of Los Angeles land acknowledgment.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gay Yuen confirmed with staff that the June 30, 2026 minutes were the only outstanding minutes requiring approval. Commissioner Ilan Davidson moved to approve the minutes of the Human Rights Committee meeting on June 30, 2026, as presented by staff. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Davidson

Seconded: Sykes

Ayes: Yuen, Davidson, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein, Ellis-Royston

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

The motion was adopted unanimously.

III. Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update

Staff Pierre Arreola provided a status update on the post-deployment review of the ERL Program. Approximately 30 ERLs participated in a listening session in July; around 20 completed an online survey, and individual interviews were also conducted. HRC Staff is currently compiling all insights into a comprehensive report to elevate ERL recommendations to enhance the program ahead of the upcoming November election.

Staff Pierre Arreola listed four emerging themes from the survey: role clarity and recognition; regional design and logistics; training and preparedness; and readiness for a higher-intensity November deployment.

Staff Paul Smith shared that ERL recommendations suggest enhancing role clarity across the election ecosystem, providing more scenario-based training, creating smaller, risk-focused deployment regions, improving coordination with Vote Center Leads/Assistant Leads and Troubleshooters, and using two-person teams for deployments that involve higher risk.

Staff Joshua Parr emphasized the County's duty of care, which includes clear safety protocols, timely incident updates, credible identification, wellness support, and legal protections.

Staff Pierre Arreola shared that Kathay Feng, formerly a Human Relations Commissioner and currently in the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk leadership, spoke about our partnership to advance election protections at a recent Council on Immigrant Inclusion meeting, thereby giving the project strong exposure among participating County and community partners.

IV. FWC26 Human Rights Implementation Framework Update

Staff Pierre Arreola shared that work is progressing on the FIFA World Cup 2026 human rights legacy report. HRC Staff have gathered information from various partners like 211 LA, TaskForce, the LA vs. Hate Rapid Response Network, and the LA World Cup Host Committee. This data covers the impact of the public education/information campaign, the reporting mechanism, and specific human rights initiatives. The report will also include recommendations for the Board of Supervisors that could help plan for future major events, such as the Super Bowl, and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

HRC Staff continue working with FIFA human rights personnel to address complaints related to the World Cup tournament and participate in weekly Case Coordination calls with 211 and other community partners to discuss reported incidents.

V. Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team Update

A. Transformative Justice and Narrative Collection

Staff Pierre Arreola requested that the Human Rights Committee consider how transformative justice work might be integrated into the Committee's agenda. Vehicles to achieve this goal include staff project updates, a commissioner conversation on criminal justice issues, a solidarity statement, an amicus letter, and advocacy on Men's Central Jail, Youth Justice Reimagined, Care First Community Investment, and community safety infrastructure.

Staff Pierre Arreola discussed the Commission's previous school resource deputy narrative project championed by the now defunct Transformative Justice Team and went on to describe narrative collection as human rights monitoring. The narratives collected from affected students and families were submitted to the Civilian Oversight Commission, the Office of Inspector General, and the Board of Supervisors and were instrumental in shaping policies that changed the system.

Staff Paul Smith provided an update on the Antelope Valley unhoused narrative-collection project, which began in 2024. This project collected narratives from unhoused persons and homeless service providers to explore interactions with law enforcement and identify ways to make changes in policy, practice, and procedure. This project was interrupted due to staffing shortfalls and budget cuts in 2025.

The Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team is now breathing new life into the work and attempting to secure law enforcement narratives from the Lancaster Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Lancaster Station. After receiving the law enforcement narratives, staff plans to prepare a cumulative report and discuss reforms with the agencies that will benefit police officers and unhoused community members alike.

B. Human Rights Award

Executive Director Robin Toma reviewed the history of the Commission's Human Rights Award. The 2024 award highlighted the County's CEDAW Collective and its efforts to achieve gender equality through the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The 2025 award uplifted the plaintiffs and attorneys involved in the Vasquez-Perdomo case regarding the immigration enforcement sweeps in Los Angeles.

For 2026, HRC Staff may recommend nominees engaged in work related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. HRC Staff will prepare recommendations for potential awardees for Committee discussion, followed by full Commission discussion.

The Committee discussed the need to work backward from a presentation date scheduled for December, preferably around International Human Rights Day. Also discussed was the possibility of holding the recognition event either before the Board of Supervisors meeting or in conjunction with the anniversary celebration of the Commission's Human Relations Awards in 2027.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

VII. Commissioner & Staff Announcements

Staff Pierre Arreola reported that recruitment for the November ERL deployment will commence shortly and will rely on trusted community networks and applicants with pertinent experience. Commissioners were invited to participate, recommend suitable candidates from their communities, or join a potential reservist pool for Election Day if they could not commit to the full deployment period.

Gay Yuen suggested to the Committee that Los Angeles County consider how it may wield its influence beyond local government to promote US engagement in international human rights structures.

Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein recommended maintaining constant communication and collaboration with human rights commissions in other regions to share approaches and maximize the impact.

Executive Director Toma reported that the Commission already works with government human rights organizations and has a project to assist interested cities and counties in creating a human rights culture.

Staff Paul Smith congratulated Executive Director Robin Toma on receiving an award from the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) for outstanding efforts to advance civil and human rights domestically and internationally.

Executive Director Robin Toma also reported that Pierre Arreola will be the Western Region Representative on the Board of Directors of IAOHRA.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Gay Yuen invited a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein moved to adjourn. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Zeise-Oberstein

Seconded: Sykes

Ayes: Yuen, Davidson, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein, Ellis-Royston

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0

The motion was adopted unanimously. Seeing no further business coming before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: September 29, 2026, at 2:00 PM