



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of January 4, 2021
Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT:	Jarrett Tomás Barrios	Preeti Kulkarni
	Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Guadalupe Montaña
	Porter Gilberg	Fredrick Sykes
	Isabelle Gunning	Sandra Thomas
	Derric Johnson	
ABSENT:	Ilan Davidson	Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
	Kathleen Domingo	Sam Liu
	Adrian Dove	
STAFF:	Robin Toma	Grace Löwenberg
	Robert Sowell	Jaye Winter

- 1. Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Moment of Silence:** President Guadalupe Montaña called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. with a quorum of 9 commissioners in attendance.
- 2. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni and seconded by Commissioner Sandra Thomas to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of December 7, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. President's Report:** No report.
- 4. Executive Director's Report**
 - 4.1. Meet the Staff – Sharon Williams:** Item tabled. Ms. Williams was unable to join.
 - 4.2. Update of Commission's Place in County Organizational Structure:** Executive Director Robin Toma shared that pending the Board and CEO's restructuring of WDACS and the creation of separate Aging as well as Workforce Development departments, they will continue to be housed within WDACS due to logistical and administrative support costs. Furthermore, over time and with continuing CEO communication and guidance, the HRC will learn what its options are in its efforts to reestablish its status as a semi-independent agency. The process may be affected by the CEO's requested projections of possible 3%, 5%, 7% and 10% curtailments from county departments. (Importantly, it is of note that at 3% and 5% there is no immediate effect on HRC branch operations, while 7% and 10% would require the loss of up to two vacant positions). Staff continue to monitor and advocate with the budgetary situation and the County's WDACS restructuring process.

4.3. Report on LA vs Hate's Inaugural United Against Hate Week: Mr. Toma highlighted the many achievements of a successful inaugural LA County United Against Hate Week, including bringing together various business, education, healthcare stakeholders, as well as the arts and media, in a collaborative effort to raise awareness of LA vs. Hate. The week garnered wide local and even national attention from major outlets like NPR (National Public Radio) and others, in turn, making the County's human relations work visible to counterpart agencies across the nation. The campaign website also experienced significantly increased visits.

Separately, after communicating with newly sworn-in County District Attorney George Gascon, DA Gascon agreed to exclude hate crime sentencing enhancements from a new policy that was previously slated to ban sentencing enhancements in an effort to reduce high levels of incarceration. With the change, Gascon demonstrated his willingness to work in partnership with human relations professionals, and his commitment regarding hate crimes particularly.

Finally, regarding a recent Antelope Valley hospital COVID-19 related hate crime, staff is communicating and collaborating closely with Antelope Valley Partners for Health, and empowering the LA vs Hate contracted partner to make their presence known in the community for this work, and offer resources.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning gave the report that the committee's strategic plan is progressing with a focused, three-tiered, prioritized approach. The plan is being finalized, with stakeholder input, and will be brought to the full commission for approval at the February meeting. If approved, it will guide the commission and staff in the targeted issuing of recommendations to law enforcement agencies across the county.

5.2. John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: No report. Committee Chair Ilan Davidson was absent.

5.3. Ad Hoc Committee on Policy & Advocacy: Committee Chair Montaño relayed and celebrated the news that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is successfully being brought before the Board at tomorrow's meeting. She commended the collaborating agencies, namely partners such as the Commission on Women, Women & Girls Initiative (WGI), and CEO over the accomplishment. If approved, the Board would request a 60 or 90 day report back seeking County Counsel's advisement on its actual incorporation into the County code, marking potentially a historic first of the County adopting an international treaty into its laws.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1. CEDAW Board Motion: See item 5.3.

7.2. JAF Awards Event: Item tabled. (See item 5.2.)

7.3. Strategic Planning Process & Timeline: Mr. Toma suggested a general timeline for developing the commission's next strategic plan, possibly a 3 to 5-year strategic plan. He recommended that commissioners begin considering major environmental factors, such as the pandemic—that the plan might

seek to address. He also suggested perhaps inviting guest speakers to inform the priorities, and eventually Board and public feedback before formal adoption. Commissioners were asked to inform Mr. Toma if they are interested in joining the Strategic Plan subcommittee, which will be formally constituted by a vote at the February meeting.

- 7.4. Redefining Policing Priority Recommendations:** Item tabled and to be continued. No action items at this time. (See 5.1, above.)
- 7.5. LA vs Hate Update:** Mr. Toma provided the key update that the branch's budget request successfully included additional funding for the LA vs Hate Campaign. The campaign critically requires funding to sustain its work. If approved by the Board, the funding will bolster the campaign's infrastructure including the Rapid Response Network created, as well as the 211 reporting system. The CEO is expected to finalize its comprehensive budget between March and May before its presentation to the Board for consideration. At that time, commissioners are encouraged to advocate for the initiative's continued funding. Staff will develop a packet of relevant materials with talking points in preparation for those meetings, which will include statistics about cases and resources offered to callers into the hotline.
- 7.6. Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative – Annual Black LA County Report:** The County CEO has successfully hired an executive officer, Dr. D'Artagnan Scorza, to lead the Board's Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative efforts. The HRC team has regular meetings with him already as part of the larger countywide ARDI Leadership team meetings. The first report to Board on the State of Black LA County— due June 2022—is now a main focus of the ARDI Leadership team.
- 8. Commissioner Comments/Announcements:** President Montaña shared that Commissioner Ilan Davidson will be considered by the Board for re-appointment to the Commission at tomorrow's Supervisors' meeting.
- 9. Adjournment:** It was moved by Ellis-Royston and seconded by Thomas to adjourn the meeting in memory of Dan Alba, late Director of Facing Today - Facing History and Ourselves; and Annie Regalado, mother of staff Raymond Regalado. Without objection the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary