



County of Los Angeles
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

510 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2788
hrc.lacounty.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
First District

Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RELATIONS

Commissioners

Helen L. Chin
President

Ilan Davidson
Vice President/Secretary

Derrick J. Johnson
Kevork Keushkerian
Fredrick Sykes
Vice Presidents

Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Lisa Michelle Dabbs
Dandy De Paula

Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Azusena Favela
Isabelle Gunning, Esq.
Preeti P. Kulkarni
Jason Moss

Serena Oberstein
Gay Q. Yuen, Ph.D.

Philip R. Valera
Honorary Member

Staff

Sharon Williams
Siranush Vardanyan
Brittany Martinez
Administrative Support

Sal Avila
Yvette Baharyans
Valentina D'Alessandro
Oscar Hernandez

Josh Parr
Gustavo Partida
Yadira Pineda-Siordia
Fidel Rodriguez
Paul Smith, Ph.D.

Intergroup Relations Specialists

Pierre Arreola
Deysy Donis-Santos
April Johnson
Monica Lomeli, Ph.D.
Managers

Robert Sowell
Assistant Executive Director

Robin S. Toma, Esq.
Executive Director

“Enriching lives through effective and caring services”

May 4th, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSONERS

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Commission/Executive Committee on Human Relations, May 4th, 2026

Our Commission will meet on **Monday, May 4th, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., at 510 S. Vermont Ave., 9th Floor, Room TK08, Los Angeles.** You may also join meeting via Teams Calendar Invitations. [Click here to join the meeting.](#) If you are unable to do so, you may dial in at: +1 213-204-2512,,968713604#. Please post agenda in your locations.

Parking is located at 523 Shatto Place. Please pull a ticket when entering the parking structure. Please take the elevator to the 9th floor and walk through the bridge, which is located towards the northwest corner of the parking structure, to reach terrace (T) Level of the building. Call 323-719-9187 when you are in the lobby (unless you have a key card to enter the elevators going up to the 15th floor). Prior to leaving the facility, please take your ticket to either security desk (Ground lever or terrace level) for validation. **Do not park at 510 S. Vermont Ave. structure. Violators may be towed at vehicle owner’s expense.**

Please review and let me know if you have any questions.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call me at (323) 719-9187 no later than 9:00 a.m., Friday April 24th, 2026.

Brittany Martinez
L.A County Commission on Human Relations
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
510 S. Vermont Ave., 15th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(323) 719-9187



Los Angeles County Commission on
Human Relations - 510 S. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020 (213) 738-2788

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Monday, May 4, 2026 – 12:30-2:00 pm

LA County Vermont Corridor Building - 510 S. Vermont Avenue - LA, CA 90020
9th Floor Terrace Conference Room

Also via MS Teams Video and Audio Conferencing [213-204 2512,,980587174#](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/213-204-2512-980587174) [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Our mission: to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment (12:30)**
- 2. Meeting Minutes:** Executive Committee members to consider approval of April 6, 2026 meeting minutes*; Commission action on proposed minutes of the March 2, 2026 Commission meeting*
- 3. President's Report (12:33)**
 - 3.1. Spotlight on a Partner
 - 3.2. Privileges as Freedoms and Limitations
- 4. Executive Director's Report (12:45)**
 - 4.1. Program, Administrative and Budget Updates
 - i Program Updates:* Advances in creating human rights reporting and assistance system for 6/12-7/10/26 FIFA World Cup games in LA, including prevention and response; virtual participation in 4/9-10 Social Practice of Human Rights conference in Dayton, OH; preparing to protect voters' rights for June elections; 4/29/26 LA County (ARDI) - UCLA Training Symposium on Identity-Based Hate and Violence; HRC-led trainings 4/22-5/28 with LA County's Dept. of Child Support (communications in a healthy workplace), LA vs Hate Rapid Response Network (anti-bias), Public Defender's Office (communications for empathy, respect and care), Public Works (managing workplace conflict)
 - ii Budget and Administration: Commission request for permission to spend budgeted funds for key needs (spending 'freeze'), including Human Rights protection/prevention actions/'No wrong door' human rights portal for FIFA World Cup and beyond for LA County
 - 4.2. Communications Update (Robert Sowell)
- 5. Committee Reports (12:55)**
 - 5.1. Human Rights Committee meeting of 4/28/26* – Commissioner Gay Yuen, Chair
- 6. Public Comment (3 minutes per person) (1:05)**
- 7. Action/Discussion Items (1:10)**

- 7.1. Create/Approve Nominations Committee and its membership*
- 7.2. Revisiting the name of the Commission's human relations awards*
- 7.3. Change Commission meeting of June 1st to June 8th
- 7.4. SB 707 Changes to State Law Requirements - Commission meetings*
- 7.5. Honoring Commissioner Isabelle Gunning – Commission actions in recent and upcoming memorial celebrations* (4/20 Southwestern Law School memorial)

8. Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner)

(1:55)

9. Adjournment

For translation to other languages o para más información en español, call (213) 738-2788 or email us.

* Denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at (213) 738-7288 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Human Relations Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by teleconference communication from the following corresponding locations: Dandy De Paula, 21825 Pioneer Blvd, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716, Serena Oberstein, 1153 Valencia, CA 90015, Jeanette Ellis-Royston, NAACP PVB Office, 1460 East Holt Avenue, Bldg. 2 Rm. 6, Pomona, CA. 91767, Kevork Keushkerian, 1115 Valley View Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107, Azusena Favela, 700 Flower St Los Angeles, CA 90017.

PUBLIC COMMENT

When prompted by staff, members of the public sector may request to provide public comment after each item:

- If joining in person, staff will call upon individuals who signed up to speak on an item.
- If joining remotely via Teams, please use the “raise your hand” feature then unmute microphone once enabled.
- Callers by phone, dial *5 to raise hand, once called upon dial *6 to unmute.



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 South Vermont Avenue, 15th floor
Los Angeles, California 90020
www.lahumanrelations.org
(213) 738-2788

DRAFT MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Meeting of April 6, 2026

COMMISSIONERS	Helen Chin, Pres.	Preeti Kulkarni
PRESENT:	Derric Johnson*, VP Azusena Favela* Kevork Keushkerian*, VP	Fredrick Sykes, VP Gay Yuen
ABSENT:	Lisa Dabbs Ilan Davidson Dandy De Paula Jason Moss	Serena Oberstein Jeanette Ellis-Royston Michael Gi Hao-Cheung
STAFF:	Pierre Arreola Siranush Vardanyan	Robin Toma
GUEST:	Lizette Hernandez Gregory Mann	

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Helen Chin called to order the meeting of the Executive Committee at 12:48 p.m., with the presence of Commission Vice Presidents Derric Johnson, Fredrick Sykes, and Kevork Keushkerian, who along with herself, comprise a quorum of Executive Committee members. President Chin began by reading the LA County Land Acknowledgment, which can be found at the following link: [Land Acknowledgment – \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/land-acknowledgment). She recognized the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples as original inhabitants of these lands, honoring and paying respect to their elders and descendants; acknowledged that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multi-generational trauma; and reminded us of our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation, and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County.

* This commissioner, and others marked by an asterisk, attended the meeting via internet video (MS Teams link), providing their location address for inclusion on the posted agenda, in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies.

** This commissioner, and others marked by double asterisks, attended the meeting via internet video (MS Teams link), but did not provide their location address on time for inclusion on the posted agenda, and were therefore not in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies, causing them not to be counted for quorum or for votes.

2. **Review & Approval of March 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** The proposed minutes of the Commission meeting of March 2nd as submitted by Vice President-Secretary (VP-Sec.) Ilan Davidson were presented to the Commission. A motion to recommend the March 2, 2026 meeting minutes for approval to the full Commission was passed with no opposition from Commissioners Sykes, Keushkerian and Chin (nor from any other commissioner present), with Commissioner Johnson abstaining.

3. **President's Report**

- 3.1 **Spotlight on a Partner: Lizette Hernandez, Trainer, Combatting Anti-Blackness*:** President Chin introduced Lizette Hernandez, trainer on combating anti-Blackness, to the Commission. Ms. Hernandez presented her community-based work in South Central Los Angeles, highlighting its collective approach and origins in long-standing community needs supported by Building Healthy Communities. She described efforts to train residents as advocates and leaders. Through Quilombos Capacity Builders, co-founded with Rob McGowan, Ms. Hernandez and her team developed and delivered trainings in partnership with organizations such as the LA (vs. Hate) Dream Centers. The program focuses on building capacity among staff and community members to address racism and develop future leaders from South Los Angeles.

The training model is flexible, interactive, and rooted in popular education, using experiential activities and a train-the-trainer approach. It addresses anti-Blackness at the internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic levels, with an emphasis on self-reflection and collective care.

Ms. Hernandez noted that, despite increased hesitation around discussing race, the trainings have created safe spaces for meaningful dialogue. She concluded by thanking the County and Commission.

Executive Director Robin Toma thanked Ms. Hernandez for her contributions, including training provided to the Dream Resource Centers staff in 2023. He emphasized the importance of requiring anti-Blackness training for all Rapid Response Network partners in Los Angeles and expressed interest in continuing this work. President Chin reiterated appreciation and expressed interest in future collaboration, then invited Commissioners to introduce themselves and their districts.

- 3.2 **Commission's Annual JAF Human Relations Awards Event of March 18th:** President Chin provide and update on the Human Relations Awards held on March 18th. She described the event as meaningful and uplifting, particularly during a time that feels heavy for many. President Chin moted that it was inspiring to hear from organizations about the important work they continue to do within communities, often quietly and without recognition. President Chin shared that the event served as a reminder that impactful work is ongoing. She also expressed appreciation for the commissioners who attended and noted that the ceremony honored Attorney General Bonta and Angelica Salas of CHIRLA as countywide award recipients.

- 3.3 **Reflections on the passing of Commissioner Isabelle Gunning:** President Chin acknowledged the passing of Commissioner Gunning and the collective shock and grief felt by the Commission. She shared a reflection from *The Wild Edge of Sorrow* by Francis Weller, emphasizing themes of grief, love, and remembrance. President Chin read the poem in honor of Commissioner Gunning, offering a moment of reflection for those present. She invited commissioners to share personal reflections on how Commissioner Gunning impacted them and the Commission, encouraging a brief space for collective remembrance and expression.

Executive Director Robin Toma shared personal reflections on Commissioner Gunning, noting that he first knew her as a law school professor at UCLA and later worked with her during his time at the ACLU and throughout her years of service with the County. He recalled her distinctive warmth and sense of

humor, as well as her deep commitment to social justice.

He also highlighted her ability to remain calm and composed in high-stress situations, recounting an incident during a community meeting when she responded to a nearby shooting with steadiness and reassurance, helping to avoid panic. ED Toma reflected on her remarkable character and presence, expressing appreciation for her contributions and sharing his sadness at her unexpected passing.

Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni shared that she developed a close relationship with Commissioner Gunning after joining the Commission, describing her as a mentor and friend who supported her professional growth. She also highlighted the personal connection, noting that Commissioner Gunning and her partner became an important part of her family's life, especially during the adoption of her daughter. Commissioner Kulkarni expressed gratitude for this bond and sadness at her sudden passing.

Commissioner Keushkerian shared that he remembered discussing the courage awards for the Human Relations Award ceremony the year prior stating that he voted for System of a Down's Serj Tankian and remembered that Commissioner Gunning said "no", and to keep Serj Tankian for the 50th anniversary, which is at a bigger level. Commissioner Keushkerian shared that he hopes that the Commission will honor her wishes next year for the 50th JAF awards.

Commissioner Johnson shared reflections in honor of Commissioner Gunning, noting he attended to pay tribute to her memory. He described their relationship as both collaborative and challenging, emphasizing that their exchanges strengthened his sense of purpose. He highlighted her intellectual prowess, strong convictions, and unwavering commitment to civil rights and justice, noting she served as a guiding force in ensuring the Commission's work remained meaningful and impactful. Commissioner Johnson also expressed personal grief, reflecting on the loss of influential mentors in his life, and conveyed that Commissioner Gunning was a pillar in the community. He concluded by expressing that she will be deeply missed and encouraged the Commission to commemorate her in a meaningful and substantive way.

Commissioner Yuen shared a brief reflection honoring Commissioner Gunning, echoing sentiments about her as a respected and influential figure. She noted that she looked up to her and had invited her to speak at the Vincent Chin commemorative event, where Commissioner Gunning had intended to draw connections between past and present issues of injustice. Commissioner Yuen expressed sadness stating that Commissioner Gunning will be missed and appreciated for her impact and legacy.

Commission Staff Manager Pierre Arreola shared personal reflections on Commissioner Gunning, noting that she made him feel welcomed and supported from his earliest days with the Commission, helping him grow professionally with encouragement and affirmation. He expressed deep appreciation for her impact on his journey and for the space being held to honor her legacy. He also shared a meaningful personal moment upon learning of her passing, reflecting on it as a symbolic reminder of renewal and her continued presence and love for the commission.

Commissioner Favela thanked the Commission for the space and echoed prior reflections on Commissioner Gunning. She shared that although she had limited time working with her, her early experience included being welcomed onto the Transformative Justice Committee, where Commissioner Gunning created space for her participation. Commissioner Favela noted that Commissioner Gunning was inclusive and intentional about bringing others to the table. She also highlighted her commitment to asking difficult questions and setting a high standard for accountability, shaping the work and expectations of the Commission.

Commissioner Sykes concurred with prior remarks, reflecting on Commissioner Gunning's intellect and

the welcoming, supportive presence she brought to the Commission. He shared his shock at the news of her passing and noted her steady spirit, deep commitment to the work, and ability to make others feel comfortable and included. Commissioner Sykes stated that she will be deeply missed and expressed confidence that her legacy will be appropriately honored.

ED Toma shared that Board offices were notified of Commissioner Gunning's passing and are planning to adjourn in her memory at the next Board meeting, along with presenting certificates for the family. He also noted the opportunity for the Commission to consider additional ways to honor her legacy and invited Commissioner to share any ideas for a Commission-led remembrance.

President Chin thanked all the Commissioners for sharing their memory of Commissioner Gunning and reminded everyone that her spirit was there with them.

4. Executive Director's Report

4.1 Budget, Admin and Program Updates

- i. **Program Updates – 3/16 Report on Human Rights re: 12/09/2025 Board motion 3/13 LA vs Hate/Stop the Hate Convening; Anti-Hate Community of Practice; 3/20 State Assembly Select Committee on Racism, Hate and Xenophobia hearing; ARDI Sessions on Online Hate; 3/25 RJLE event on Racism and Religion:** ED Toma informed the Commission on March 16th, the Commission submitted a report requested by the Board on international human rights, outlining strategic approaches to strengthen the County's human rights commitments. He pointed out the tremendous contributions by the Commission's relatively new Human Rights team manager Pierre Arreola, as well as Assistant Executive Director (AED) Robert Sowell. He also noted ongoing state-level discussions around reduced funding for anti-hate initiatives, while highlighting continued advocacy efforts and cross-jurisdictional collaboration, including participation in a community of practice and related national convenings.

ED Toma further shared that on March 20th he presented on hate crime data and trends before the California State Assembly Select Committee on Racism, Hate, and Xenophobia. Legislators expressed interest in supporting a county program focused on diversion or alternative sentencing for hate crime perpetrators. ED Toma also referenced ongoing research on online hate through ARDI-UCLA collaborations, and his recent participation in Supervisor Mitchell's Racial Justice Learning Exchange convening on Racism and Religion, noting strong LA vs Hate presence, wide community participation, and continued efforts to advance the county's work in this space.

- ii. **Budget and administrative actions needed for HRC programs and services: Commission recommendations on Human Rights Protection systems/No wrong door human rights portal for FIFA World Cup activities in LA County** ED Toma reported that the Commission's approved recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the creation of a County system to respond to human rights violations tied to the World Cup was submitted and included in the meeting packet. He emphasized the intent to build upon existing efforts and provide a foundation for future implementation, even if a full system cannot be completed by the upcoming event, while underscoring the ongoing need for such infrastructure in Los Angeles County generally, and for future major events.

He acknowledged staff contributions, including Manager Arreola and AED Sowell, for their

work on the report and implementation efforts, and expressed appreciation for the entire Human Rights team's continued efforts.

4.2 Communications Update: There was no update available at this time.

5 Committee Reports

5.1 Human Rights Committee: Committee chair and Commissioner Gay Yuen was unable to attend the previously held committee meeting and asked if ED Toma or Manager Arreola would fill in the Commission on discussion held during the meeting. Arreola reported on the Human Rights Committee meeting, including agreement to extend committee meeting time from 60 to 90 minutes to accommodate the volume of substantive agenda items. He noted some scheduling considerations but emphasized the need for additional time to support effective discussions and quorum for voting items.

Manager Arreola shared the updates on World Cup-related human rights planning, including coordination with the LA Host Committee, development of grievance and remedy mechanisms such as the 211 campaign, and efforts to incorporate land acknowledgements and public messaging strategies tied to anti-hate initiatives. He also noted the submission and ongoing engagement on the Board-directed human rights report.

Manager Arreola further shared progress on election-related initiatives, including enhancements to election worker training, expansion of the Election Resource Liaison program, and improvements to de-escalating/mediation training. He reported continued coordination with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and preparations for expanded recruitment and deployment efforts, including increased staffing capacity for upcoming elections.

6. Public Comment: President Chin moved to Public Comment and noticed that Gregory Mann from the California Civil Rights Department was in the meeting online, and wanted to allow for space if he had any comment to share. Mr. Mann informed President Chin that he appreciated the opportunity to join the meeting and was sitting in to keep up with items, especially the report from Pierre Arreola. ED Toma shared that the Human Relations Commission is working with the California Civil Rights Department on a statewide convening that is scheduled for June and would provide more information as it becomes available to the Commission.

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1 Create/Approve Nominations Committee and its membership: President Chin introduced the action item to establish and approve a Nomination Committee to support selection of the next Executive Committee, noting that officers will begin their term on July 1st. She outlined that the committee should include one commissioner from each supervisorial district, per the Commission's bylaws, and that members ideally should not be running for office.

ED Toma clarified that the full Commission must vote to approve the Committee membership, and the current body would only be making a recommendation. President Chin proceeded to solicit interest from commissioners by district to join the Nominations Committee, to be

recommended to the full Commission.

President Chin volunteered to join the Committee, representing District 2. Commissioner Sykes or Commissioner Yuen for District 1. Commissioner Johnson of District 1 also expressed interest in joining the Committee. Commissioner Kulkarni volunteered for District 3. Commissioner De Paula was noted for District 4, and Commissioner Keushkerian for District 5. A motion was made by Commissioner Sykes to recommend approval of the Nominations Committee as stated above, subject to approval by the full Commission. The motion was seconded by President Chin and the motion passed unanimously with no abstention or objections.

7.2 SB 707 Changes to State Law Requirements – Commission meetings*: ED Toma informed the Commission of new state legislation affecting government meetings, noting it is expected to take effect July 1st pending final Board determinations. He highlighted potential limits on virtual attendance (including committees), generally restricting remote participation to two meetings per year under specific circumstances, and new requirements for translated meeting materials when need for non-English-speaking communities.

7.3 County ordinance on ICE free zones, effective 4/15/26*s*: ED Toma informed the Commission of a new county ordinance establishing ICE-free zones on county-owned and controlled property, effective the 15th of the month. He explained that the ordinance prohibits unauthorized civil immigration enforcement on county property, required clear signage, and establishes a permit process for civil enforcement activities, while still allowing lawful criminal enforcement and actions pursuant to valid judicial warrants. He noted that the ordinance will be implemented by county departments, including relevant law enforcement authorities.

8. Commissioner Announcements: President Chin noted that she had an announcement and reminder not to shop, go to work, or school on May 1st as a reminder of May Day.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was proposed to be adjourned at 2:02 p.m. in memory of Commissioner Isabelle Gunning, made by Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Keushkerian, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary

EOBS Monthly Progress Report -

For the time period February 27th to April 20, 2026

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Human Rights Monitoring and Advocacy

- **Summary of Accomplishments**

- **Accomplishment One: Report Back on December 9 Board Motion.** Finalized and submitted, on 3/16, the Board Report requested in the motion titled, “Affirming Los Angeles County’s Commitment to Human Rights” (December 9, 2025). The report was vetted in advance by Jose Chew of CEO-LAIR on 3/3 in a meeting via Teams. HRC had received a submission extension from 3/9 to 3/16 to incorporate additional content requested by Supervisorial District 2 (Jonathan Yang) at a 3/4 meeting via Teams. Link to the December 9, 2025 Motion: <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/210414.pdf>
- **Accomplishment Two: Cross Jurisdiction Human Rights Coordination.** In compliance with expectations communicated in the December 9 Board Motion, HRC met with Emilia Morris of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations on 3/10 via Teams to discuss the Commission’s human rights monitoring and advocacy practices and strengthen cross jurisdiction coordination with local and regional governments to advance human rights work domestically. Link to the December 9, 2025 Motion: <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/210414.pdf>
- **vtAccomplishment Three: Strengthening International Human Rights Connections.** HRC staff virtually participated in the international *Social Practice of Human Rights Conference – Creative Resistance: Activism, Technology and the Right to Dissent* (SPHR26) hosted by the Human Rights Center at the University of Dayton on 4/9 and 4/10 via Zoom. SPHR26 convened scholars, artists, activists, organizers and practitioners to examine how human rights are imagined, challenged and advanced in practice. The conference explored how activism, digital technologies, and creative forms of protest shape contemporary struggles for human dignity and justice. Learnings from the Conference are expected to inform Human Rights promotion in LA County.
- **Accomplishment Four: Commission Recommendation to Direct Coordination of Human Rights Promotion and Protection During World Cup Games.** At the 3/2 meeting, the Commission on Human Relations Commission formally approved drafting a letter to all Supervisors on human rights opportunities and challenges tied to the World Cup 2026 tournament, and summarizing HRC’s

ongoing and needed work in this area to promote and protect human rights before, during, and after this major sporting event. HRC leadership transmitted the letter to the Board of Supervisors, their deputies, and other relevant County stakeholders on 4/2 via email. On 4/15 via Teams, HRC met with Supervisorial District 3 deputies (Elizabeth Shuster and Rachel Fox) to discuss the Commission letter and coordinate further communication with the CEO Major Events team and other district deputies.

- **Accomplishment Five: Ongoing Collaboration with FIFA World Cup Host Committee on FIFA-Required Human Rights Action Plan.** HRC staff participated in several meetings (3/11, 3/17, and 3/24 via Zoom) with designees of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Host Committee (Steve Sugerman and Malina Brown) to review and discuss the Host Committee's Human Rights Action Plan, and explore the HRC's involvement and leadership in the implementation of the human rights strategy informed by the County's human rights opportunities, challenges, and related resources. A weekly meeting cadence has been established to support ongoing human rights coordination work ahead of the World Cup Tournament starting in June.
- **Accomplishment Six: Planning Human Rights Campaign and Reporting System for Human Rights Complaints During World Cup Games.** HRC staff participated in FIFA-led meetings with US-based Host Committees to discuss safeguarding approaches on 3/20, grievance and remedy mechanisms on 4/7, and counter trafficking efforts on 4/9. HRC staff was invited to participate by the local Host Committee, better positioning the HRC for a leadership role in local human rights implementation. The HRC gained key insight into FIFA's safeguarding strategy and grievance/remedy process to inform planning for County-level reporting and coordination before, during, and after the World Cup tournament. On 4/8 via Zoom, HRC staff met with the Centre for Sport and Human Rights (Annabel Short) to discuss and provide feedback on their Fan & Communities Guide Initiative, which aims to develop Host City-specific human rights resource guides for the World Cup tournament. On 4/14 via Zoom, HRC staff met with the LA Host Committee designees (Steve Sugerman, Malina Brown) and international FIFA Human Rights Team (Matthew Mullen, Daniela Diaz, Linda Mastandrea, Natalie Gross) to discuss and coordinate local human rights campaign and reporting efforts. On 4/15 via Zoom, HRC staff met directly with the LA Host Committee designees Steve Sugerman, Malina Brown, Michael Beamer) and the LA Regional Human Trafficking Task Force (Travis James, Lt. Maricela Castillo, Sara Elander) to discuss and coordinate local counter trafficking campaign and reporting efforts.

- **Accomplishment Six B: Participation in Dayton Ohio Human Rights Conference.** ED Toma agreed to speak online with an in-person conference and session panel on April 9th, 2026 on "Advancing Local-Global Leadership to bring Human Rights, sharing the LA County government and Commission actions to integrate human rights treaty commitments and principles into local governance.
- **Accomplishment Seven: Coordinating Human Rights Public Information Campaign FIFA World Cup 2026 with the LA Host Committee.** HRC staff participated in several weekly meetings (every Tuesday from March 24th to April 14th via Teams or Zoom) with designees of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Host Committee (Steve Sugerman, Malina Brown, Emma Stein, Jason Krutzsch, and Heidi Hoff) and HRC marketing Contractor, Taskforce (Dana Coffman and Sarah Rudney), to coordinate a multidimensional human rights public information campaign, a "no wrong door" grievance and remedy mechanism, and other focused efforts that address specific human rights focus areas including hate/discrimination, workers' rights, immigrant rights, accessibility, and first amendment protections. Through these coordination efforts, HRC staff has secured modest funding support from the LA Host Committee to support expansions of our current 211 and Taskforce contracts to support World Cup-related human rights implementation efforts. HRC staff has engaged the CEO to facilitate the fund disbursement and contract expansions.
- **Accomplishment Eight:** HRC staff participated in the monthly meeting of the **California Association of Human Relations Organizations** which took place on March 20th via Zoom. Discussions were related to an upcoming in-person summer convening on human relations/human rights in Los Angeles County (tentatively at Cal State University Northridge) with local and statewide partners.
- **Accomplishment Nine: Collaboration with CA Civil Rights Department on planning of Regional Convening on Community Conflict Resolution.** HRC staff met with CA Civil Rights representative, Angela Oh, on 4/10 via Teams to plan the June 8 Convening's purpose and vision, provide feedback on the draft agenda and partner invitations, and explore ideas for the session HRC staff is being asked to host on government responses to community conflict.
- **Accomplishment Ten: Follow Up on National Divided Community Project (DPP) Virtual Convening.** As a follow up to last month's presentation to DCP network, HRC staff met with Yvette Dean of Princeton University's Bridging Divides Initiative (BDI) on 3/10 via Teams to discuss its Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project in detail. BDI will be highlighting the HRC's work in their national monthly newsletter.

- **Accomplishment Eleven: Engage and Inform USC Professors and Students on LA County Engagement with UN Human Rights System.** HRC ED Robin Toma was asked to speak about the County and Commission’s experiences with the UN Human Rights system, as part of a panel of USC Professors and other UN Human Rights advocates at an event of the United Nations Association chapter at USC.

- **Progress Toward Goal:** *Between January 1 and June 30, 2026, enlist, prepare, deploy, and supervise 50 persons to protect voter rights and prevent and respond to vote site conflict.*

Across multiple coordination meetings with Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) staff (including on 3/12, 3/16, 3/24, 3/25, 3/31, 4/1, 4/2, 4/15 via Teams), HRC staff reviewed recommendations from the Commission’s report-back informed by the December 2025 listening session and survey, and worked with RR/CC partners to strengthen related training for Election Workers, with emphasis on conflict resolution and de-escalation. HRC also collaborated with RR/CC to compile and analyze data from previous elections, current operational planning, federal immigration enforcement hotspot mapping, and economic vulnerability indicators to identify priority deployment regions for Election Resource Liaisons (ERLs). During these discussions, RR/CC and HRC staff jointly determined that ERLs will operate in 2-person Teams. HRC staff will have a centralized role in ERL coordination and deployment. At the end of March, HRC staff finalized the Election Resource Liaison deployment strategy and launched a focused recruitment campaign targeting qualified County employees and community partners with experience in conflict resolution, de-escalation, and community mediation. As of mid-April, 20 ERLs have been recruited.

- **Challenges and Risks**

- **Challenge One: Insufficient Staff Capacity for Expanding Need.** The Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy team continues to experience limited staffing capacity as workload expands. The team remains heavily dependent on volunteer, intern, and extern support, as well as direct involvement from executive staff to sustain core functions. As of mid-April, two Senior Human Relations Consultant positions were transitioned from the Transformative Justice Team to the Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team to provide additional staff support and reduce day-to-day reliance on executive staff and external support.
- **Challenge Two: Coordination of Multiple Stakeholders for World Cup Human Rights Promotion and Protection.** Effective planning for World Cup human rights promotion and protection is challenged by the complexity of coordinating multiple local, regional, and international stakeholders within a compressed

implementation timeline. The accelerated schedule limits time for government and community coordination to implement a holistic human rights strategy. This challenge underscores a critical lesson for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, where early planning and interagency coordination will be essential to achieving meaningful human rights outcomes.

- **Upcoming Priorities**

- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event One:** On 5/5, 5/8, and 5/13, HRC will conduct three Onboarding Sessions for Election Resource Liaisons as part of the Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project in collaboration with the RR/CC. The sessions will cover ERL basics, election basics, a de-escalation refresher, and deployment preparation. ERLs will be deployed on the last four days of the voting period, including Election Day, 5/30-6/2.
- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event Two:** By the end of May, HRC will initiate and sustain intensive coordination effort across County departments to align planning, resources, and responsibilities related to human rights risks and opportunities for World Cup 2026.
- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event Three:** Throughout the World Cup tournament in June and July, HRC, in collaboration with the LA Host Committee, will work together to implement a multidimensional human rights campaign across the County and tournament-related activities, and manage a local human rights grievance and remedy mechanism.
- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event Four:** HRC staff will continue discussions with the California Civil Rights Department regarding their June 8 regional convening at the California Endowment. HRC is being asked to help identify and bring together LA/Southern California-based conflict resolution practitioners and to support facilitation of a discussion on the local landscape and capacity for community conflict resolution work.

Hate Documentation and Data Analytics

- **Summary of Accomplishments**

- **Accomplishment One: UCLA Subject Matter Expert Interview—** On March 5, 2026, Dr. Monica Lomeli participated in a subject matter expert interview for a research project led by Masahiro Kimura, Master of Public Policy candidate at UCLA. Staff provided relevant data, contextual information, and technical guidance tailored to the request. The interview included discussion of key subject matter areas aligned with hate crime documentation. Staff responded to follow-up questions to ensure clarity and usability of the information provided. As a

result, staff maintained communication for any additional clarification and offered continued support for future related inquiries.

- **Accomplishment Two: Joint Convening of Stop the Hate and LA vs Hate**— On March 13th, Dr. Monica Lomeli served as a panelist and presented key data trends related to the most impacted communities in LA County and what it means for anti-hate work throughout LA County. About 80 representatives from CBOs representing both organizations were present. Additionally, Dr. Lomeli answered questions during the Q&A portion related to how the County hate crime data can support and inform CBO budgetary requests and meetings with public and elected officials to request funds and resources. Follow-ups included data requests from Confluence Rising and the Korean American Coalition, as well as presentation requests from the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the LA vs Hate school workgroup.
- **Accomplishment Three A: LA vs Hate Signs of Solidarity Campaign Data Request**— On March 17, 2026, as part of their Signs of Solidarity campaign, our team provided LA vs Hate requested hate crime and hate incident data analyzed by ZIP codes for targeted select groups and special characteristics. The in-depth data will inform a second phase of their campaign to target communities highly impacted by hate. On April 16, our team met with Commission leadership and the LA vs Hate Marketing Team. Staff provided an overview of the hate crime and hate incident analysis provided by zip code and answered questions pertaining to the data.
- **Accomplishment Three B: Invited to Speak to CA Assembly Select Committee on Racism, Hate and Xenophobia at hearing in LA** -- On March 20, 2026, ED Toma presented on hate crime findings and trends in LA County, and its anti-hate programs before Assemblymembers Jackson, Chair, and other committee members at the Autry Museum.
- **Accomplishment Four: Data Request provided to the Korean American Coalition**— On April 6, 2026, staff engaged with the Korean American Coalition through a request coordinated by Danielle Cho. The team prepared and provided a custom hate crime data set for anti-Korean crimes by zip code. The organization will use this data to inform program strategies and pursue funding sources.
- **Accomplishment Five: Presentation on School-Based Hate Crimes**—On April 16, the team delivered a presentation for the LA vs Hate Education Workgroup with representatives from LA Vs Hate’s Rapid Response partners, including 211 LA coordinators, LA County Office of Education, LA Unified School District, Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Public Health in attendance. The team provided data they had compiled and in-depth analysis on

hate crimes in schools by motivation, targeted group, special characteristics, school type, criminal offense, and level of violence and answered questions pertaining to the data presented.

- **Accomplishment Six: Meeting on Methodology of Hate Crime Data Collection with District Attorney’s Office**—On April 14, the team met with DA Hate Crimes Prosecutor, Paul Kim, and DA Supervisor, May Chung, to discuss the data collection methodology for the Hate Crime Report. The team provided technical assistance and guidance in the efforts of the DA’s office to conduct community outreach to increase hate crime reporting from schools. A referral was made to the LA vs Hate program to engage Paul Kim in outreach efforts through their Education Workgroup and the USC Social Justice Initiative.
- **Accomplishment Seven: Human Resources Onboarding of Contract Hate Data Analysts.** Human Resources onboarding is complete for 8 Contract Analysts. One additional potential Contract Analyst is awaiting Live Scan clearance.
- **Accomplishment Eight: Ongoing Support for New Power BI Dashboard**— Provided ongoing supporting and technical guidance to IRM in developing a new Power BI dashboard. This included data validation and explanations of our analysis structure to IRM staff. This new dashboard will replace the current one that produces errors for certain analyses.
- **Progress Toward Goal:** *Between January 1 and June 30, 2026, review at least 2,000 reports of hate activity from 2025.* To date, we have received 2,519 reports of hate activity from partner agencies, half of which already have been assigned for review.
- **Challenges and Risks**
Challenge One: Insufficient Staff Capacity for Expanding Need. Our staff is facing serious challenges in our capacity to conduct secondary review of reports entered into the Hate Event Tracker database by primary reviewers. This is the result of the team downsizing from four team members to two given the departure of one Senior Human Relations Consultant and another one on medical leave. Data collection has also been impacted as well as the coordination of the Network Against Hate Crime quarterly meeting. In addition, the team is receiving a substantial increase in the number of data requests. Reduced staff capacity means we will pause meeting data requests so we can focus efforts on the training of new and returning data analysts and the production of the annual Hate Crime Report.
- **Upcoming Priorities**

- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event One: IRM Onboarding of Contract Hate Data Analysts.** The newly hired data analysts will receive digital desktops, credentials, and database access.
- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event Two: Training of Hate Data Analysts.** New and returning data analysts will undergo hate crime and hate incident training as well as database training to review, analyze, and enter hate event reports into the Hate Event Tracker database.

LA vs Hate

- **Summary of Accomplishments**
 - **Accomplishment One: Glendale Community College/YWCA Walk – Community Solidarity Event:** On March 4th, Commission’s LA vs Hate staff attended community solidarity walk hosted by Glendale Community College in partnership with the YWCA of Glendale and Pasadena, bringing together students, community members, and local organizations. LA vs Hate staff engaged directly with attendees, shared informational materials, and promoted awareness of hate incident reporting and available support services. Staff connected with approximately 25 students and community members during outreach efforts. The event created a visible platform to celebrate cultural diversity while reinforcing messages of unity and belonging. This outreach supports LA vs Hate’s prevention goals by building trust and increasing visibility in community spaces.
 - **Accomplishment Two: Palestinian Community Cultural Wealth Mural – Community Workshop Launch:** On March 7th, LA vs Hate staff led and participated in the launch of the Palestinian Community Cultural Wealth Mural project, an LA vs Hate initiative implemented in partnership with the Mural Workforce Academy. The workshop brought together community members across generations to begin co-creating a mural that reflects cultural identity, lived experiences, and collective resilience. LA vs Hate facilitated engagement, supported outreach, and shared information about hate incident reporting and available services with approximately 25 participants. The project uses an intergenerational, restorative approach to public art that centers community voice and promotes healing through creative expression. This initiative advances LA vs Hate’s prevention framework by using arts and culture to counter hate narratives, foster belonging, and strengthen community resilience.
 - **Accomplishment Three: Art Build with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON):** On March 11, LA vs Hate staff/partners attended an Art Build organized by the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) in

preparation for the Adelanto Caravan and Serenata held on March 14th.

Community members gathered to create signs and visual messages centered on dignity, humanity, and immigrant rights. LA vs Hate staff distributed pamphlets and Signs of Solidarity posters and engaged approximately 30 participants in conversations about reporting hate incidents and accessing services. The event fostered community-led expression as a response to anti-immigrant sentiment and hate. This engagement supports LA vs Hate's strategy to use arts and culture as tools for prevention, healing, and community resilience.

- **Accomplishment Four: Los Angeles Unified School District Human Relations Commission Meeting:** On March 12th LA vs Hate staff attended the Los Angeles Unified School District Human Relations Commission meeting to maintain alignment between LA vs Hate and district-level human relations and educational equity efforts. The Commission serves as an independent advisory body to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board on diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies. Participation supports coordination on prevention-focused approaches that strengthen school climate and reduce bias, discrimination, and hate-based incidents. Engagement in this forum ensures LA vs Hate remains aligned with district priorities and contributes to cross-system collaboration that benefits students and school communities.
- **Accomplishment Five: LA vs Hate and Stop the Hate Joint Convening:** On March 13th, we conducted the joint convening with LA vs Hate and Stop the Hate partners to strengthen coordination across prevention, response, and survivor support efforts. The convening featured Assembly member Jessica Caloza (AD-52) and Assembly member Mark Gonzalez (AD-54), who shared updates on legislative efforts to address hate. Monica Lomeli, Data Analyst, presented on 2024–2025 hate data trends in Los Angeles County to inform targeted interventions. ED Robin Toma spoke to the convening at the beginning and end of the gathering, about the historical meaning of the largest number of community organizations joined in this anti-hate network for LA County, the challenges ahead, and the impact we can have in solidarity with one another. The convening included AAPI Equity Alliance, 42 Stop the Hate partners, and 17 LA vs Hate Rapid Response Network. This effort strengthened cross-sector alignment and supports data-informed strategies to address hate and improve service delivery.
- **Accomplishment Six: Preventing Polarization Webinar – Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles:** On March 16th, we attended the webinar Preventing Polarization: Strategies for Open Dialogue and Shared Civic Learning in Every Classroom, hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. The session included engagement with Brian Deters, author of “Preventing Polarization,” and

focused on strategies to foster empathy and inclusive classroom environments. Participants explored approaches such as experiential learning, open communication, and student-centered dialogue. The webinar included educators and stakeholders. This engagement supports LA vs Hate's education-based prevention efforts by promoting inclusive practices that reduce conflict and foster understanding.

- **Accomplishment Seven: LA vs Hate Education Workgroup – Presentation by Christopher Rivas:** On March 19th, the LA vs Hate Education Workgroup was convened, featuring Christopher Rivas, founder of the Brown Literacy Movement. The session focused on literacy and storytelling as tools for healing, identity development, and belonging. The convening includes education partners. Discussion emphasized how representation in literature can counter bias and empower youth voices. This work advances LA vs Hate's prevention strategy by promoting culturally responsive education. [Brown Enough Book](#)
- **Accomplishment Eight: Board Motion Implementation- Community Healing and Mural Update:** On March 24, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a [motion](#) directing county departments to take a community-driven, trauma-informed approach to addressing the legacy of Cesar Chavez in County spaces. In alignment with this directive, the Human Relations Commission, through LA vs Hate, initiated early efforts to support community healing, engagement, and culturally responsive practices. As part of this work, the LA vs Hate mural at the Watts Century Latino Organization was updated to reflect community values by replacing the image of Cesar Chavez with Dolores Huerta, honoring her leadership and contributions to the farmworker movement. Initial internal discussions have also begun to explore healing-centered approaches for communities impacted by this issue. This work advances LA vs Hate's commitment to equity, restorative practices, and community-informed responses to harm.
- **Accomplishment Nine: Holly J. Mitchell Racial Justice Learning Exchange:** On March 25th, ED Robin Toma participated in and LA vs Hate tabled at the Racial Justice Learning Exchange hosted by the Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. LA vs Hate staff (including LA vs Hate team senior staff Yvette Baharyans) engaged with attendees, including community members and faith-based organizations, and distributed informational materials on reporting hate incidents and accessing services. The event focused on race, religion, and advancing equity through dialogue and action. Participation strengthened partnerships with organizations working at the intersection of racial justice and community healing. This outreach

supports LA vs Hate’s mission to prevent hate through education and engagement.

- **Accomplishment Ten: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis Spring Jubilee – Community Outreach Event:** On March 26th, tabled at the Spring Jubilee community event hosted by the Office of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. LA vs Hate staff engaged with community members and families, distributing outreach materials and providing information on reporting hate incidents. The event provided a high-visibility opportunity to connect with diverse residents. Outreach focused on increasing awareness and building trust with the community. This engagement supports LA vs Hate’s goal of expanding access to prevention resources across Los Angeles County.
 - **Accomplishment Eleven: LA vs Hate Education Workgroup – Hate Crime Report Presentation:** On April 16th, 2026, The LA vs Hate Education Workgroup convene on April 16, 2026, featuring Dr. Monica Lomeli, leader of the Hate Documentation and Data Analytics Program, and Yadira Pineda-Siordia, Senior Human Relations Consultant, both from the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. Presenters shared key findings from the 2024 Hate Crime Report, with a focus on the prevalence of hate crimes in school settings. The session highlights trends, challenges, and opportunities for prevention in educational environments. This convening supports data-informed strategies and strengthens partner capacity to address hate and bias in schools.
 - **Accomplishment Twelve: LA County and Commission presence at Translatina Coalition Groundbreaking of New Building/Offices –** On April 10th, ED Toma joined U.S. Congresswoman Laura Friedman, CA State Assemblymember Rick Zbur, and staff of Supervisor Solis in speaking to a crowd in Hollywood gathered to mark the groundbreaking for a new building and offices for the Translatina Coalition.
- **Progress Toward Goal:** *Between January 1 and June 30, 2026, ensure at least 500 referrals to support services for persons targeted by hate activity in LA County.* Since January 1, 215 referrals to support services have been provided to persons targeted by hate activity in LA County.
 - **Challenges and Risks**
 - **Challenge One: Insufficient Staff Capacity for Expanding Need –** With limited staff, managing/attending multiple large-scale events increases the risk of scheduling conflicts or actual unavailability.

- **Challenge Two: Timely completion of the Text-To-Report platform** - Rollout of the platform depends on ISD-IT updates which are characterized by frequent delays.
- **Upcoming Priorities**
Upcoming Deliverable/Event: **LA vs Hate Text-to-Report Platform**: Staff reviewed the system and provided feedback to ISD-IT, which is updating the platform. LA vs Hate has entered the testing phase of the Text-to-Report platform, a mobile tool that will allow residents to report hate incidents. Staff is working with the 211LA team to test functionality, user experience, and accessibility. Feedback from testing will inform final refinements before launch. This tool will expand low-barrier reporting options and improve access to care coordination services for individuals impacted by hate.

Equity and Human Rights Training

- **Summary of Accomplishments** See Progress Toward Goal
- **Progress Toward Goal:** *Between January 1 and June 30, 2026, conduct at least 25 training sessions with at least 700 participants to build the capacity of County units and community organizations to implement equitable practices and apply a human rights framework.* Since January 1, we have conducted 11 trainings with 332 participants towards our goal. *Between March 2 and April 20, we designed and led customized training experiences that included sessions with the Department of Public Works, Waterworks Division, serving 10 department leaders on positive group interactions, organizational culture, and leadership; a training for educators at Frostiq School focused on bias in education and managing its influence; and a series of trainings with Department of Child Support Services leadership to strengthen healthy and productive interactions between leadership and staff.*
- **Upcoming Priorities**
 - **Upcoming Deliverable/Event One:** From April 22 through June 17, we will facilitate 23 trainings in partnership with the Department of Child Support Services, continuing a requested series focused on strengthening communication between leadership and staff and addressing unhealthy workplace communication patterns.
 - **Upcoming Deliverable/Event Two:** On May 26, we will facilitate a training for the LA vs. Hate Rapid Response Network focused on bias and cultural sensitivity.

- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event Three:** On May 27, we will consult with leadership from the Public Defender's Office to plan a training series aimed at strengthening employee engagement with communities through empathy, respect, and care.
- **Upcoming Deliverable/Event Four:** On May 28, we will facilitate a training for the Department of Public Works, Waterworks Division, completing a customized series designed to address employee tensions and intergroup conflict.



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

info@hrc.lacounty.gov

(213) 738-2788

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

April 28, 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

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement (2:00)**
- 2. Review & Approval of Minutes (March 31, 2026)* (2:02)**
- 3. Discussion: Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team Updates (2:05)**
- 4. Discussion: WC26 Human Rights Implementation Framework Update (2:20)**
- 5. Discussion: Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update (2:50)**
- 6. Public Comment (3:20)**
- 7. Commissioner & Staff Announcements (3:25)**
- 8. Adjournment (3:30)**

Next Meeting Date – May 26, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by virtual conference communication from the following locations: 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

510 S. Vermont Avenue, 15th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90020
www.hrc.lacounty.gov
213.738.2788

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 31, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conference

PRESENT: Ilan Davidson Fredrick Sykes
 Jeanette Ellis-Royston Serena Zeise-Oberstein

ABSENT: Gay Yuen
 Helen Chin

STAFF: Robin Toma Pierre Arreola
 Robert Sowell

I. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM with a quorum in attendance. Vice Chair Ilan Davidson then read the land acknowledgement.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes (February 24, 2026)

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson invited a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes motioned to approve the minutes of the Human Rights Committee meeting on February 24, 2025, as presented by staff. Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Sykes

Seconded: Zeise-Oberstein

Ayes: Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein, Ellis-Royston

Nays: None

Abstentions: Davidson (Due to Previous Absence)

Vote: 3 – 0 – 1

The motion was adopted by majority decision.

III. Discussion & Action: Committee Meeting Time and Duration

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson facilitated a discussion on the need to extend the duration of the Human Rights Committee Meeting, noting the breadth and depth of the work shouldered

by the Committee and Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team. Staff Pierre Arreola shared Chair Gay Yuen’s proposal to increase the meeting length from 60 minutes to 90 minutes, and her recommendation that the Committee identify a date and time that would allow members to accommodate this change.

Executive Director Robin Toma provided an overview of the new Brown Act rules regarding remote participation and quorum requirements, which are expected to take effect on or around July 1, 2026. The Committee agreed to revisit the discussion at their June Committee meeting, when more clarity on the new rules is available.

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson presented a motion to increase the duration of the Committee meeting to 90 minutes and adjust the meeting time to 2:00 PM – 3:30PM. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Davidson

Seconded: Sykes

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0

The motion was adopted unanimously.

IV. Discussion: WC26 Human Rights Implementation Framework Update

Executive Director Robin Toma provided a high-level overview of the finalized Commission Letter submitted to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Commission’s human rights coordination efforts for the World Cup 2026. He also shared that the LA Host Committee has committed funding and other resources to support these efforts. Staff Pierre Arreola informed the Committee that the LA Host Committee will also be listing the Commission as a key partner on the official LA World Cup website.

In accordance with the previous Committee motion granting delegated authority to the Chair to approve the Commission Letter, and given the absence of Chair Gay Yuen, Vice Chair Ilan Davidson will approve the finalized Commission Letter.

V. Discussion: Board Motion on LA County’s Commitment to Human Rights

Staff Pierre Arreola presented the report back submitted in response to the December 9 Board Motion on Affirming Los Angeles County’s Commitment to Human Rights. The Committee discussed the recommendations outlined in the report. The Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team, in collaboration with HRC Leadership, is developing next steps to build the institutional capacity needed to implement the proposed work. Staff plan to schedule a meeting with the motion author, Supervisor Holly Mitchell, to review and discuss the report back.

VI. Discussion: Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update

Staff Pierre Arreola provided an update on the Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project. He shared that HRC Staff and RR/CC are meeting regularly to develop deployment plans, create program materials, and implement the recommendations highlighted in the listening session report. Staff Pierre Arreola also reviewed the recruitment script and encouraged Committee members to consider serving as Election Resource Liaisons and to refer qualified individuals.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements

No announcements from Commissioners.

IX. Adjournment

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson presented a motion to adjourn the meeting in the memory of Commissioner Isabelle Gunning, whose legacy will live on through the LA County Commission on Human Relations and the many lives and institutions she touched. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Davidson

Seconded: Sykes

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0

The motion was adopted unanimously. Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.

Next Meeting Date: April 28, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Nominations Committee and its membership: President Chin introduced the proposal to form a Nominations Committee to help select the next Executive Committee, whose terms will begin July 1. The committee should include one commissioner from each supervisorial district and ideally consist of members not running for office. ED Toma clarified that the full Commission must approve the final membership, while the current group will recommend candidates, and President Chin invited commissioners by district to express interest in serving.

The Committee was recommended as follows:

District 1: Gay Yuen, Derric Johnson

District 2: Helen Chin

District 3: Preeti Kulkarni

District 4: Dandy De Paula

District 5: Kevork Keushkerian



County of Los Angeles
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

510 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2788
hrc.lacounty.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
First District

Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

May 4, 2026

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Robin S. Toma, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation on Name of Human Relations Awards

**COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RELATIONS**

Commissioners

Helen L. Chin
President

Ilan Davidson
Vice President/Secretary

Derric J. Johnson
Kevork Keushkerian
Fredrick Sykes
Vice Presidents

Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Lisa Michelle Dabbs
Dandy De Paula

Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Azusena Favela
Preeti P. Kulkarni
Jason Moss
Serena Oberstein
Gay Q. Yuen, Ph.D.

Philip R. Valera
Honorary Member

Staff

Sharon Williams
Siranush Vardanyan
Brittany Martinez
Administrative Support

Yvette Baharyans
Valentina D'Alessandro
Oscar Hernandez
Josh Parr

Gustavo Partida
Yadira Pineda-Siordia
Fidel Rodriguez
Paul Smith, Ph.D.

Intergroup Relations Specialists

Pierre Arreola
Deysy Donis-Santos
April Johnson
Monica Lomeli, Ph.D.
Managers

Robert Sowell
Assistant Executive Director

Robin S. Toma, Esq.
Executive Director

Each year we celebrate accomplishments of community partners, acknowledge the impact of exemplary leaders, and elevate the visibility of our work with our Human Relations Awards recognitions. This crucial effort is named for former LA County Supervisor, John Anson Ford.

John Anson Ford was chair of the County Board of Supervisors when our predecessor structure, the County's Joint Committee for Interracial Progress, was established by the Board in January 1944. He was one of the initial members of the Committee. The Committee was replaced by County ordinance in 1958 with the Commission on Human Relations and Ford was named as one of the first Commissioners. That same year he retired from service as a County Supervisor though he continued to serve as a Commissioner for more than ten years.

For a considerable time there have been questions and concerns raised about the appropriateness of our Human Relations Awards being a namesake of John Anson Ford. Certainly, he had important roles in the start of our work. But, in addition, there is ample documentation that at least some of his words and actions were directly contrary to our values and core principles. He was elected as an LA County Supervisor in 1934, near the crest of the multi-year, County-led expulsion of tens of thousands of persons of Mexican descent, a large portion of whom were American citizens, to Mexico during the 1930s. Public records document his cooperation with this effort. In 1941, he was still leading the Board's ongoing work to remove people from the County and transport them across the border. Records of an interview of Ford by a Latina university researcher in 1971 include him making light of the deplorable deportation crusade many years later.

The importance of John Anson Ford to the establishment and early development of our work is undeniable. But so is the conflict of his attitudes and actions with who we are and what we do. Therefore, it is the strong recommendation of the staff that our Human Relations Awards recognitions no longer carry the name "John Anson Ford".

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 1, 2026
To: Commissioners and Staff
From: Siranush Vardanyan, Special Assistant, Commission Staff
Subject: Summary of California Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) – Brown Act Updates

Overview

California Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) updates the Ralph M. Brown Act, which governs open meetings for local government legislative bodies such as commissions, boards, and councils. The bill modernizes public meeting laws, particularly regarding teleconferencing, public access, meeting transparency, and language accessibility.

Many of the provisions under SB 707 will take effect on **July 1, 2026**, and certain teleconferencing provisions will remain in effect through **January 1, 2030**.

The overall purpose of SB 707 is to modernize public meeting requirements, expand public access through remote participation, and create clearer and more consistent teleconferencing rules for legislative bodies.

Below is an outline summary of those changes. Please note that given the complexities of the new law and its provisions, we will confirm these prior to relying or acting upon them. This outline summary is intended to begin familiarizing yourself with its provisions, and to identify any clarifying questions or concerns.

Major Changes Under SB 707

1. Teleconferencing and Remote Participation

SB 707 revises and expands teleconferencing rules for public meetings. The bill reorganizes previous teleconferencing laws and creates a more unified system for remote participation.

Key updates include:

- Revises rules for remote participation due to “just cause” or emergency circumstances.
- Expands “just cause” reasons to include family and medical issues.
- Requires meeting minutes to identify which law allowed each member to participate remotely.

- Extends teleconference provisions through 2030.
- Applies to local legislative bodies such as commissions, boards, and councils.

These changes combine and replace prior temporary teleconference rules that were created during the COVID-19 emergency period.

2. Limits on Remote Attendance

SB 707 places limits on how often a member of a legislative body may attend meetings remotely under the “just cause” provision. The number of remote attendances allowed is based on how often the legislative body meets each year.

This provision is intended to ensure that members still attend meetings in person regularly while allowing flexibility when necessary.

3. Emergency Teleconference Rules

The bill updates procedures for teleconference meetings during emergencies, including:

- State emergencies
- Local emergencies
- Public health emergencies

During declared emergencies, legislative bodies may use alternative teleconference procedures to allow meetings to continue while maintaining public access and participation.

4. Language Translation Requirements

Beginning July 1, 2026, certain legislative bodies will be required to provide language translation for meeting materials, including agendas, when a significant portion of the community speaks a language other than English.

This requirement is intended to improve public access and participation for non-English-speaking communities.

5. Meeting Locations and Public Access

SB 707 includes requirements related to meeting accessibility and locations. Legislative bodies must:

- Provide accessible meeting locations
- Continue allowing teleconference participation locations for the public
- Ensure meetings comply with civil rights and nondiscrimination laws
- Maintain public access to meetings whether held in person, remotely, or in hybrid format

6. Public Participation and Meeting Procedures

SB 707 also updates procedures related to public participation and meeting conduct, including:

- Expands authority to remove disruptive individuals from meetings (both in person and remote)
- Requires special meeting notices to be posted online
- Establishes more uniform emergency meeting procedures
- Clarifies procedures for hybrid meetings

These changes are intended to create consistent procedures across local agencies.

Effective Dates

Provision	Effective Date
Teleconference changes	July 1, 2026
Agenda translation requirements	July 1, 2026
Teleconference provisions extended until January 1, 2030	

Summary

SB 707 represents one of the most significant updates to the Brown Act in recent years. The bill modernizes public meeting requirements by expanding teleconferencing options,

increasing public access, requiring language accessibility for meeting materials, and standardizing emergency and remote participation procedures.

Overall, the law is intended to improve transparency, accessibility, and public participation in local government meetings while allowing legislative bodies more flexibility to conduct meetings remotely when necessary.

If your department or commission conducts public meetings subject to the Brown Act, it will be important to review teleconferencing procedures, agenda translation requirements, and meeting access policies before the July 1, 2026 implementation date.



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of
Isabelle R. Gunning
Mayor Tom Bradley Professor of Law

Monday, April 20th
6:00 p.m.

Southwestern Law School
Louis XVI Room

Livestream Option Available