



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of November 2, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

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

- 1. Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Moment of Silence:** Vice President-Secretary Ilan Davidson called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. with a quorum of 11 commissioners in attendance.
- 2. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Adrian Dove and seconded by Commissioner Sandra Thomas to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of October 5, 2020. The motion carried with one abstention. Commissioner Derric Johnson abstained due to his absence at that meeting.
- 3. President's Report**
 - 3.1. October 23rd Press Conference on Our Annual Hate Report:** Vice President Ilan Davidson explained that he is presiding in place of President Montaña, who is serving as an election worker today. He reported that President Montaña represented the Commission at the recent press conference presentation of the Annual Hate Crime Report and gave welcoming remarks.
 - 3.2. Special Guest: Otto Solorzano, Acting Director of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS):** Davidson invited WDACS department head Otto Solorzano to introduce himself, and address the Commission. Mr. Solorzano commended the commissioners, executive staff Toma and Sowell, and the branch's mission-driven staff for their service, particularly at this time. He shared a brief video that was sent to all WDACS employees that highlights the work of the Commission as exemplary of the WDACS' values. He noted that *LA vs Hate* Campaign/Program Team – Terri Villa-McDowell, Fidel Rodriguez, and Roland Gilbert - were recently recognized at the department's Executive Leadership Team meeting.

In response to Commissioner Davidson's question, Director Solorzano also offered comments on the Board's possible restructuring of the department (into one for Workforce Development and another for Aging Services). He informed commissioners that the CEO is in the process of developing its report and identifying the costs of the new proposed organizational structures. Following that report, it may take an additional one to two years to implement. He will follow the Board's directives. Meantime, he is continuing to boost morale, engagement, trust, and transparency at all levels. He will notify this Commission as he learns more. Commissioners thanked Director Solorzano.

4. Executive Director's Report

4.1. Meet the Staff: Roland Gilbert and Dr. Monica Lomeli: Mr. Toma introduced two of the branch's Senior Human Relations Consultants: Dr. Monica Lomeli of the Hate Crime Report team, and Mr. Roland Gilbert of the *LA vs Hate* Team. Dr. Lomeli shared a brief personal and professional biography, having grown up in South Central LA and watched the 1992 civil rights unrest from her home, inspired to pursue studies in the sociology of race and ethnicity. She teaches on these subjects at LA Community College, and handles data analysis from policing agencies and CBOs for the Commission, and shapes recommendations to agencies on how to respond to hate crimes and incidents.

Mr. Roland Gilbert shared a compelling narrative of his being a caregiver for his late sister, in addition to his community service focus spanning 30 to 40 years, working with Oakland youth. He manages data and analysis for the Anti-Hate Campaign, and was similarly raised in Los Angeles, specifically in the Central Avenue and Vernon-Slauson area. Previously a contractor with the Commission, he is happy to now be permanent full-time staff.

4.2. CEO Report to Board of Supervisors Regarding Anti-Racism Initiative: Mr. Toma shared that the CEO submitted a report to the Board regarding its recent action "Establishing an Antiracist Los Angeles County Policy Agenda." The Human Relations branch is closely engaged with CEO and Department of Human Resources as part of the new Anti-Racism Initiative's leadership team, helping planning and design of training and other programmatic work. The Initiative includes numerous departments, whose representatives are evaluating policies and practices to identify and eradicate racism. Tasked with the development of an annual report to the board on the state of Black LA County, the Commission is working with the Anti Racism Leadership Committee, and philanthropy, community, and academia toward the first annual report's completion and presentation in June 2022. In addition to continuing the partnership with the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE) on supporting the County government in the endeavor, race and community forums are also being discussed.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning reported that the committee continues prioritizing recommendations, and LA County Measure J will help to fund programs via the Alternatives to Incarceration office, which will both be decided in the elections. In December there will therefore be more to share about priorities.

5.2. John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Taken up with item 7.3., below.

5.3. Ad Hoc Committee on Policy & Advocacy: Mr. Toma gave the report in place of committee chair Montañó. On the subject of the commission's future place in the larger County structure, he noted that the

question is largely pending the Board's decision with respect to the creation of separate Aging and Workforce departments.

Separately, conversations have resumed with UC Irvine Law School's International Justice Clinic on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) international treaty. The Commission is working with the County Women & Girls Initiative (WGI) and the County Commission on Women as the entities that should lead in this work.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1. "Redefining Policing" Priorities Recommendations: No recommendations at this time.

7.2. Report to Board of Supervisors on *LA vs Hate* Program: Mr. Toma referred to the agenda packet supporting documents, explaining the importance of expanding organization networks and capacity in building a system responsive to acts of hate. Funding will be needed for such, with communities and non-profits being currently underfunded. To increase awareness of LA vs Hate, increase reports of hate to 211, and to call on all to speak out against hate, launching the inaugural United Against Hate Week for LA County, November 30 to December 6, inspired by Northern California. In addition to more than 180 million visits to the LA vs Hate webpage and 80 million content downloads, a United Against Hate Week will call on LA communities to take action against hate. Cities and organizations are being asked to sign on to the campaign, encouraging them to address their unique issues of hate in their jurisdictions, and the Board will be asked to pass a resolution declaring this United Against Hate Week.

It was moved by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Sykes to support and promote the concept of United Against Hate Week. The motion carried unanimously.

7.3. John Anson Ford Awards Event – Plans & Process: JAF Committee Chair Davidson provided the report that as the County has not indicated intent of moving toward in-person events, in order to respect timelines, and in light of the importance of making event related decisions, the committee recommends a January 2021 virtual JAF Awards event.

The committee's recommendation was so moved by Commissioner Ellis-Royston, to direct staff and the committee forward in the planning and execution of a January 19, 2021 John Anson Ford Awards virtual event. The motion carried unanimously.

7.4. Main Findings of the Recently Released Hate Crime Report: Mr. Toma reviewed some of the main findings presented at the previous commission meeting, highlighting those that garnered the most attention from the official Hate Crime Report release press conference, the first virtual press conference of its kind, which was successfully coordinated with the County Joint Information Committee. The press conference was well received with as much media participation and coverage as in previous years including major networks, radio, and Spanish as well as Asian new media.

8. Commissioners' Comments/Announcements: Commissioner Ellis-Royston shared that she was approached by a City of Pomona official on the subject of no-knock warrants and the prevention of harm to innocent bystanders, as in the case of Breonna Taylor. She asked whether the commission assumes an official stance. The item was referred to committee.

Separately, Commissioner Sykes voiced that some residents are concerned about LAPD helicopters and their ability to record protests.

9. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Cheung to adjourn the meeting in memory of Aurelio Jose Barrera, Los Angeles Times Pulitzer Prize winning photo journalist recognized for his coverage of Latina/o communities. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary