



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of November 4, 2019
WDACS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT:	Jarrett Tomás Barrios Ilan Davidson Jeanette Ellis-Royston Porter Gilberg Isabelle Gunning	Preeti Kulkarni Guadalupe Montaña Fredrick Sykes Sandra Thomas (By Phone)
ABSENT:	Michael Gi-Hao Cheung Adrian Dove	Derric Johnson Sam Liu
STAFF:	Robin Toma Robert Sowell Grace Lowenberg	Gustavo Guerra Vasquez Jaye Winter

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. with a quorum of 9 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Isabelle Gunning led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of October 7, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. President's Report:**
 - 3.1 John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards (JAF) Event of October 15, 2019:** President Barrios shared video and photos from the recent John Anson Ford Awards, thanking the JAF Committee, participating commissioners, and commission staff. Commissioners and staff were invited to share impressions and feedback. Commissioner Davidson suggested a larger scale event moving forward and possibly raising funds to grow the JAF trust fund. Additionally, he urged that in the future, more awardee nominations originate from commissioners themselves as opposed to the responsibility falling to staff by alternative default. Overall, commissioners agreed that the event proved inspirational as well as diverse.

4. Executive Director's Report

- 4.1 Update on Anti-Hate Crime and Trans-Focus Hiring:** Executive Director Toma explained that the branch continues awaiting progress on the hiring of staff, in some instances since July. Despite the ongoing challenges, the branch continues to engage and push for progress given its critical staffing needs. . Specifically, the process is currently pending the banding of candidates based on their written interview questions, before advancing to selection interviews.
- 4.2 Anniversary of Deadliest Anti-Jewish Hate Violence in U.S. History – Oct. 27th:** Mr. Toma noted that last week marked the one-year anniversary of the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue attacks that claimed 11 lives, and recognized Commissioner Davidson's Temple Beth-El for commemorating the event. Commissioner Davidson expressed his thanks for HRC staff being represented by Ray Regalado and noted that Supervisor Hahn was also in attendance.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Commissioner Gunning reminded the commission that the LA County Civilian Oversight Commission is hosting its annual conference on November 16 at St. Anne's Conference and Event Center, where our Commission will lead afternoon table discussions sessions. She extended an invitation to interested commissioners to help facilitate the sessions. Separately, the academic partners for the Policing Report are on track to complete the report by November 25. Due to a few sound quality concerns some of the report's video components may incorporate subtitles.
- 5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson shared that an event debrief with staff will occur next week. A more detailed report to commission will follow next month.
- 5.3 Ad Hoc IAOHRA LA 2020 Conference Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson announced the host committee-approved title for next summer's conference, which will be "2020 Vision for Equity and Inclusion: Rising to the Challenges and Celebrating the Victories," with a slated date of August 9-13 and a potential extension to August 14. He expressed gratitude at having a strong host committee and shared that International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is appreciative of the range of preparatory work already done by the committee. Notably, IAHOA voiced that it feels all is running ahead of the planning schedule. The Committee Chair also highlighted that sponsorships are being sought as soon as possible, with the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Garcetti possibly sponsoring the conference as well. Commissioners were encouraged to suggest any foundations they may have in mind. Mr. Toma added that a general solicitation template letter will be forwarded to commissioners for their use. Finally, the Chair mentioned that the committee seeks to incorporate a new social media presence this time to garner youth attendance and to help build an inaugural youth-specific track.
- 5.4 Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Committee Chair Montañó presented the committee's recommendation that the Human Relations Commission become a stand-alone agency as the Board awaits a report back on the future structure of the WDACS department and possible creation of new Aging as well as Workforce departments. The commission agreed on the concept of the recommendation in general, however, referred it back to committee for final revisions.

6. Action/Discussion Items

- 6.1 John Anson Ford Trust Account and Spending Plan:** The item was tabled due to lack of time.

6.2 Commission Committees and Membership: Commissioner Ellis-Royston expressed her interest in joining the Ad Hoc Committee on Policing Practices and Human Relations.

It was moved by Commissioner Montaña and seconded by Commissioner Davidson to approve the committees, membership, and chairs, as amended, adding Commissioner Ellis-Royston to the Ad Hoc Policing Practices and Human Relations Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

6.3 International Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): The item was tabled due to lack of time.

7. Commissioners' Comments/Announcements: No comments or announcements.

8. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Ellis-Royston to adjourn the meeting in memory of Tree of Life Temple's victims and survivors, and in memory of Congressman Elijah Cummings. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montaña
Commission Vice President-Secretary