



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of September 14, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT: Jarrett Tomás Barrios
Ilan Davidson
Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Kathleen Domingo
Porter Gilberg
Isabelle Gunning

Derric Johnson
Preeti Kulkarni
Sam Liu
Guadalupe Montaña
Fredrick Sykes
Sandra Thomas

ABSENT: Adrian Dove

STAFF: Robin Toma
Robert Sowell

Grace Löwenberg
Jaye Winter

1. **Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Moment of Silence:** President Guadalupe Montaña called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. with a quorum of 12 commissioners in attendance.
2. **Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Derric Johnson to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of August 3, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report**
 - 3.1 **League of Women Voters' Request Regarding Police Reform:** President Montaña shared that she was approached by the League of Women Voters, of which she is a member, for her opinion, ideas, and recommendations regarding LAPD reform in such areas as accountability, discipline, and data collection, among others. Montaña will refer the organization to the Commission's recent policing report, as well as to staff.
 - 3.2 **September 30th CAHRO Statewide Convening:** President Montaña further informed commissioners that they ought to be in receipt of an invitation from Executive Director Robin Toma, to a California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) meeting at the end of the month; a continuing conversation on the subjects of racial equity, policing issues, statewide legislation, and where other commissions across the state will share their recent approaches to current and relevant events.

4. Executive Director's Report

4.1 New Staff: April Johnson and Fidel Rodriguez: Mr. Toma shared the news of the newest staff hires. The branch recently welcomed April Johnson, Senior Human Relations Consultant (Sr. HRC), and welcomed back Fidel Rodriguez, a returning Sr. HRC.

4.2 IAOHRA Webinar on COVID-19 and Fair Housing Webinar: Additionally, IAOHRA (International Association of Human Rights Agencies) recently hosted two webinars: one focusing on criminal justice equity and voting rights in light of the pandemic, current events and the spotlight on policing issues nationwide. The other was on fair housing issues and COVID-19, including looming end of eviction moratoria.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning recounted that she and the committee continue combing through the long list of recommendations to pare down and focus on “easy wins”—that is, the more easily actionable recommendations from the policing report. In addition to consolidating others. Following that the committee will shift to thinking about how to implement larger reform items.

5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Committee Chair Davidson reported that nominations for organizations in every district have been successfully submitted, and commended staff for the work of compiling the information. The committee will convene next week to review and discuss them in detail, and he will seek to present the results to the full commission at its October 5 meeting. Looking further ahead, he anticipates by the November commission meeting that the decision will be made whether to host the 2021 event in-person or as a virtual event in light of the response to the pandemic.

6. Action/Discussion Items

6.1 Prioritizing Our “Redefining Policing” Recommendations for Change: Mr. Toma shared that the LA Board of Police Commissioners has invited the HRC to present recommendations from its report most relevant to their body, to LAPD, and to the City of LA.

6.2 “LA vs Hate” Action Committee Meetings of July 22 and August 26: A report of the July 22 and August 26 meetings will be part of a written report to be shared with commissioners. All were invited to participate in the next LA vs Hate Action Committee meeting, whose date is forthcoming and will be communicated per Mr. Toma.

6.3. John Anson Ford Awards Event – Plans & Process: Items for consideration are anticipated and forthcoming at the October commission meeting.

6.4 LACCHR Place in LA County Organizational Structure: Mr. Toma reported that former LA County CEO Sachi Hamai is officially retired, with former Chief Operations Officer Fesia Davenport stepping up as Acting CEO. The transition of leadership may delay Board- and CEO-directed guidance to the WDACS department on how to proceed in the creation of separate Aging and Workforce Development departments—and the impact and subsequent placing of the HRC and NAIC in the County structure. The department continues operating while the Board and CEO assess the mechanics of realizing the

aforementioned. Each Supervisor, along with CEO and WDACS, are apprised of this Commission's position on the matter as the adopted motion was shared. Mr. Toma will solicit more information with respect to a timeline and will update the commission. Importantly, Mr. Toma reassured commissioners that it is the intent that HRC staff and current programs to pursue the Commission's position that it become a stand-alone entity, including the Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) which has become part of the Human Relations branch since the Commission's merger with this department in 2009, and annually receives \$2-3 million in funding.

7. **Commissioners' Comments/Announcements:** Commissioners Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Jarrett Barrios, and Fredrick Sykes shared they are participating in regional and local "black-and-brown" focus meet-and-greets with LA County District Attorney candidate George Gascon, and will circulate open invitations to all commissioners.
8. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Davidson to adjourn the meeting in memory of UCLA Professor of the Japanese American Internment, Redress & Community, Lane Ryo Hirabayashi. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary