



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California, 90020  
<http://www.lahumanrelations.org>

(213) 738-2788

[PROPOSED] MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Meeting of July 6, 2020  
Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT:   Ilan Davidson                                 Preeti Kulkarni  
              Adrian Dove                                 Guadalupe Montaño  
              Kathleen Domingo                         Jeanette Ellis-Royston  
              Michael Gi-Hao Cheung                     Frederick Sykes  
              Isabelle Gunning                         Sandra Thomas  
              Derric Johnson

ABSENT:    Jarrett Barrios  
              Porter Gilberg  
              Samuel Liu

STAFF:     Robin Toma   Theresa Villa McDowell  
              Robert Sowell                                 Jaye Winter  
              Grace Löwenberg

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** President Guadalupe Montaño called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. with a quorum of 9 commissioners in attendance.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioners Ilan Davidson and Sandra Thomas to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of June 1, 2020, and Special Commission meeting of June 8, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. President’s Report:** President Montaño welcomed and introduced Commissioner Kathleen Domingo, representing Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s Fifth District. She commended Anti Hate Initiative (AHI) recent efforts, and expressed it is her wish to increase staff involvement during commission meetings along with more commissioner-staff collaborative initiatives under her presidency.
- 4. Executive Director’s Report**
  - 4.1 Board Motions on LA vs Hate Program & County FY 2020-21 Budget Adoption:** Executive Director Robin Toma began by congratulating the new 2020-2021 Commission officers. Mr. Toma reported that the Board of Supervisors passed the new fiscal year budget reflecting an 8% reduction in net County costs. Yet, due to the Board’s re-affirmed support of the HRC’s Anti Hate Initiative (AHI) in a recent board motion, the LA vs Hate Campaign, the Countywide Equity Initiative (CEI), and such projects as the Policing & Human Relations committee’s work, the branch remains largely shielded from detrimental financial impact. Moreover, the Board has re-affirmed support for the hiring of the AHI’s Sr. HRC and HSA I positions. Those positions’ bulletins will post soon and will receive an exemption from the state of emergency hiring freeze.

Regarding the LA vs Hate Campaign, the Board supports the idea of having a larger action committee and for the HRC to partner with other government entities as well as external partners in order to seek possible external funding. Staff will therefore seek to connect with foundations and chambers of commerce to leverage resources for the campaign.

The process of assessing and planning for the 211 LA contract for FY 2022 is underway, given that current funding is through 2021 only. Staff remains focused on ensuring funding sources, including regular grant research and submittal. One federal grant funding proposal recently submitted, is to fund the rapid response network of community-based organizations (CBOs—a response for which is expected in the coming months. The grant program is funded by the DOJ to the tune of \$6 million for the specific purpose of bullying prevention projects, of which \$750,000 is being solicited in order to successfully fund the LA County LA vs. Hate rapid response network in schools for 3 years.

Commissioner Adrian Dove requested a copy of this, and last year's HRC budgets. Along with the budget for the LA vs Hate campaign.

**4.2 Release of Policing Report:** The Commission's "Redefining Policing with Our Communities" report has officially been released to the public. Mr. Toma thanked Commissioner Isabelle Gunning for her leadership and chairing of the Policing & Human Rights committee, as well as all staff members and commissioners involved, noting its historical significance in light of current events.

**4.3 IAOHRA & CAHRO Online Events:** Mr. Toma reported on recent meetings hosted by the International Association of Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) and the California Association of Human Rights Organizations (CAHRO). Each networks' hosted events have allowed HRC leadership and commissioners to connect with other human rights leaders, advocates, and counterparts across cities and the country, with several new members and forthcoming members announced. Culver City, for example with its newly created human relations commission, and the city of San Gabriel. One notable trend across both networks is that of agencies' increasing portfolios around addressing systemic and structural discrimination, as well as hate related incidents—while simultaneously facing budget and resource challenges.

## **5. Committee Reports**

**5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing & Human Relations:** Committee Chair Gunning thanked all the committee members and staff involved in the production of the report. The video component of the report was successfully shared with commissioners minutes ago, and approval is requested to publicize the video before the end of the week. This is in order that its approval and dissemination may be timely and not delayed until the August meeting. Gunning mentioned that she and Commissioner Johnson have already conducted radio show interviews as part of a positive media and community response to the report. Additionally, ABC and NBC news, and local newspapers have picked up the story.

**5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson is awaiting a staff update on additional nominations received since the June commission meeting. He urged commissioners to submit their nominations as soon as possible. Once there are nominations received for organizations in every district, he will convene the committee to review the submissions.

**5.3 Ad Hoc Policy & Advocacy Committee:** No report.

## 6. Action/Discussion Items

**6.1 IAOHRA Membership Renewal:** It is time to renew the Commission's annual IAOHRA membership.

It was moved by Gunning and seconded by Sykes to approve the Commission's IAOHRA membership renewal for 2020-2021. The motion carried unanimously.

**6.2 Commission Statement on COVID-19:** Commissioners were asked to refer to the Commission statement on COVID-19, drafted by immediate-past president Jarrett Barrios and Mr. Toma, included in the agenda packet. Without objection, Commissioner Dove withdrew his request for an addendum commendation.

It was moved by Davidson and Ellis-Royston to approve the Commission's statement on Covid-19. Commissioners Johnson, Kulkarni, and Dove abstained. None opposed. The motion carried 6-0-3.

**6.3 Policing & Human Relations Report & Recommendations:** Commissioner Gunning explained that approval of the video report is being sought in light of current events and being that WDACS's video staff is now on Disaster Service Worker (DSW) assignment, rendering them unavailable to edit the final video substantively any further. Should commissioners find issue with any aspect of the video, they are asked to inform Commissioner Gunning or staff no later than Thursday morning.

It was moved by Thomas and seconded by Davidson to approve public release of the "Redefining Policing with Our Community" video. The motion carried unanimously.

**6.4 Addressing Anti-Racism & Anti-Black Racism:** President Montaña raised the subject of an ex-HRC employee's email to several commissioners months ago, regarding a filed complaint alleging branch internal discrimination. The matter was investigated, with former president Barrios additionally communicating the matter to the First District, County Counsel, and other offices concerning itself with diversity and inclusion. Without any findings, all of the aforementioned offices additionally offered that commission members do not have jurisdiction in County personnel matters.

**7. Public Comments/Commissioner Announcements:** Ms. Shadeequa Smith, member of the public and County Probation Department employee, inquired into whether HRC is collaborating with other agencies and departments to address the policing crisis and recent demonstrations. President Montaña and Commissioner Gunning assured her in the affirmative, referring her to the recent policing report, available online, and specifically to the many stakeholders and collaborators listed therein with whom the committee conferred.

Commissioner Sykes stressed the importance of motivating county youth as early 16 years old, to pre-register to vote.

Montaña shared that the USC Keck School of Medicine recently created an Office for Social Justice to examine social justice in healthcare delivery, an office with which the HRC Committee on COVID-19 response may consider partnering.

New commissioner Kathleen Domingo briefly introduced herself, highlighting her work with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as Senior Director of the Office of Life, Justice & Peace/Director for Government Relations for the Archdiocese's 300 parishes in Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties. She looks forward to bringing her faith community perspective into the commission.

8. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Davidson and seconded by Kulkarni to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson  
Commission Vice President-Secretary