



# 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  
Commission Meeting of February 4, 2019  
Workforce Development Aging and Community Services (WDACS)  
3175 W. Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California 90020  
Rm 301 CSS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT: Jarrett Tomás Barrios      Derric Johnson  
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung      Daisy Ma (By Phone)  
Ilan Davidson      Fredrick Sykes  
Adrian Dove  
Porter Gilberg      Samuel Liu (By Phone)\*  
Isabelle Gunning      Sandra Thomas (By Phone)\*

*(\*)Not counted for quorum purposes because their location was not provided on the public meeting notice*

ABSENT: Preeti Kulkarni      Guadalupe Montaña

STAFF: Robin Toma      Sikivu Hutchinson  
Robert Sowell      Jaye Winter  
Grace Löwenberg

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m. A quorum of the Commission was reached with 9 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Isabelle Gunning, and seconded by Commissioner Daisy Ma, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of January 7, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report:**
  - 3.1 **Introduction of New Member of Commission, Derric Johnson:** President Barrios introduced newly appointed commissioner, Derric Johnson, appointed by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Commissioner Johnson made introductory remarks and shared a brief biography. Notably, he is the founding director of the Equity & Justice Institute at the Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences, and previously, was Senior Deputy for Public

Safety & Justice in the office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. He looks forward to contributing to the Commission.

**4. Executive Director's Report:**

- 4.1 CAHRO Conference:** Executive Director Toma thanked commissioners Barrios and Sykes for their participation in the recent CAHRO (California Association of Human Relations Organizations) statewide conference.
- 4.2 Report Back on Anti-Hate Campaign:** Mr. Toma summarized the Board Motion of July 17, 2018, authored by Supervisor Hilda Solis. The Board directed the Commission on Human Relations/WDACS to create a multi-year campaign to address the rise in hate groups, incidents, and crimes, and in the fall supported it with an appropriation from the Supplemental Budget. We joined the existing contract between the County and 211 social services referral, so that 211 will also now respond to reports of hate incidents. Additionally, we worked to engage CBS Entercom for the launch of the campaign marketing. There is an additional (Productivity Investment Fund) request before the Quality & Productivity Commission (QPC) pending as well. This grant, if awarded, will build additional capacity with community and county partners to respond to reports of hate. The full launch will occur upon 211 staff becoming fully trained. They are currently in the process of being trained. The original appropriation allows for the hiring of two new staff members, and if the QPC funding request is granted, we would have an additional contractor to provide a third person to advance the Campaign project.
- 4.3 Proposed Human Relations Committee for Culver City:** Mr. Toma reported he was invited to speak to the Culver City Council on their agenda item to create a Human Relations committee. The Council agreed and approved in concept to support its creation and efforts to define the committee's goals and agenda. Culver City would be joining the current twenty or so cities in the County with a Human Relations bddy.
- 4.4 Commission Staff Presentations: Gustavo Partida and Dr. Sikivu Hutchinson:**

Dr. Sikivu Hutchinson, Senior Intergroup Relations Specialist, shared her role within the branch and her leadership in the Women's Leadership Project and Young Male Scholars program across three south Los Angeles high schools. She advances culturally responsive and intersectional professional development with faculty and administrators in school communities, among other projects. Dr. Hutchinson shared a video of the Women's Leadership Project, produced in part by the students.

Staff member Gustavo Partida was not in attendance due to illness and will present at a later meeting.

**5. Committee Reports**

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Committee Chair Gunning gave the report. The Committee moved into the post-hearings phase of its community hearings and law enforcement hearings and received its first proposal from a possible academic partner. The next step is for the committee to review the report. As it stands, the committee has yet to select a definitive academic partner and continues to pare down the list of submitted statements of

work. Announcement of a selected candidate is forthcoming. The structure of stakeholder meetings continues to be developed. Commissioner Sykes noted there is a need for improved sound recording equipment moving forward for any community meetings to ensure quality recording, as quality varies across distinct site and community spaces.

- 5.2 **Ad Hoc Committee on Hosting IAOHRA Conference 2020:** Commissioner Ilan Davidson reported the Commission's proposal will be going to the IAOHRA Board on February 20<sup>th</sup>, and there appears to be financial support from Supervisors. Commissioners will be asked for help with the conference in time. More updates to follow at the March meeting.

6. **Action/Discussion Items**

- 6.1 **Update on Gemmel Moore's Death:** President Barrios and Commissioner Porter Gilberg asked that the future title of this recurring item be amended to reflect the names of now both victims, Mr. Gemmel Moore and Mr. Timothy Dean. Commissioner Gilberg reported Mr. Dean's death is officially confirmed as the second overdose death in the home of Mr. Ed Buck within a year's time. The West Hollywood City Council will receive an update from the Sheriff's Department tonight, and the Sheriff and District Attorney's offices both have announced they will begin reevaluating Mr. Moore's Death and are investigating Mr. Dean's death fairly and accurately. Commission letters have been sent to Council Member Lindsay Horvath and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl in support of urging the Sheriff's Department and DA's Office to conduct a more thorough investigation; particularly an investigation of Mr. Ed Buck. Mr. Toma will follow up with Third District commissioners to assist, if they desire, facilitating the meeting with Supervisor Kuehl's staff. President Barrios and Commissioner Gilberg commended Council Member Horvath's responsiveness in light of the news of Mr. Dean's passing.
- 6.2 **Hosting the IAOHRA Conference in Year 2020:** It was noted that this item was previously covered during the Ad Hoc Committee report in Item 5.2.
- 6.3 **Transgender Community Advisory Body for LA County:** Mr. Toma summarized that concern over the disproportionately high rates of violence in the hate crimes against the transgender community and underreporting of such, coupled with a previous CEO working group focusing on gender non-discrimination, led to Commission President Barrios and Commissioner Gilberg meeting with Mr. Toma on the need for a Commission strategy to protect this vulnerable community. Mr. Toma first met with the City Human Relations staff on the idea of expanding the LA City Transgender Advisory Council to include the County. Mr. Toma was requested to meet with LA City Council Member Mitch O'Farrell's staff, and they expressed the councilmember's support of forming a joint County-City transgender advisory body. Supervisor Kuehl through her deputy AJ Young has expressed support for a transgender advisory body to address transgender community concerns for LA County. Precedent exists for such joint bodies, as in the case of the Native American Indian Commission, though NAIC may not necessarily be the model in every respect if such body is sought. Its relationship with other transgender community organizations such as the Transgender Service Providers Network and the West Hollywood Transgender Advisory Body would need to be considered as this body develops. Mr. Toma shared and referred to the memo "Motion to Recommend the Development of a LA County Transgender Advisory Body" from Commissioner Gilberg which is incorporated by reference into these minutes.

It was moved by President Barrios and seconded by Commissioner Gunning to support the concept of a Transgender Advisory Body for LA County, in consultation with the current LA City Transgender Advisory Council. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.4 **Possible Upcoming Changes in Departmental Organization:** Mr. Toma noted that Cynthia Banks retired as WDACS Director last week, making Chief Deputy Otto Solórzano, the acting department lead until official Board confirmation or an appointment. Tomorrow, the Board will consider two potentially impactful motions that explore the creation of separate departments for aging services and workforce development services departments, including Supervisor Solis' amendment including our commission and staff in the consultant report to the board due in approximately 9 months. There is a possibility that the Human Relations Commission and branch may become a standalone agency as it was prior to 2009, or that it may be re-incorporated with another department. President Barrios requested that this become the first discussion item on the March agenda, to maintain updates and begin formulation of a collective opinion should it be necessary to bring to the Board.
- 6.5 **Use of Terms Referencing Jewish People in Commission Publications:** Commissioner Gilbert moved as a point of privilege that the item be postponed and resumed at the March meeting due to time constraints. No objection.
7. **Commissioners' Comments/Announcements:** The next quarterly Network Against Hate Crimes meeting is scheduled for Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. The Next Youth Coalition meeting will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Toma announced that the Dispute Resolution Program is undergoing the process of renewing the contract or pending 5 years of contracts. The new RFP is scheduled for release February 5, 2019, with a conference the following week for proposing organizations. Finally, the branch will host a visiting group from Central Africa on February 12, to share community strategies for countering violent extremism. The group is part of the International Visitors Council and comprises mostly non-profit organizations.

8. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Davidson to adjourn the meeting in recognition of Cynthia Banks for her years of leadership of the department and 46 years of county public service; and in memory LAUSD Superintendent, Michelle King. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montaña  
Commission Vice President-Secretary