County of Los Angeles
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

510 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2788
hrc.lacounty.gov

"Enriching lives through effective and caring services"

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Robert Sowell
Assistant Executive Director

Robin S. Toma, Esq.
Executive Director

June 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISONERS

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: **Meeting of the Commission/Executive Committee on Human Relations, June 8, 2026**

Our Commission will meet on **Monday, June 8, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., at 510 S. Vermon Ave., 15th Floor, Room VCHQ 15K16, Los Angeles**. You may also join meeting via Teams Calendar Invitations. Click here to join the meeting. If you are unable to do so, you may Dial in at: +1 213-204-2512,,968713604#. Please post agenda in your locations.

Parking is located at 523 Shatto Place. Please pull a ticket when entering the parking structure. Please take the elevator to the 9th floor and walk along the bridge, which is located towards the northwest corner of the parking structure, to reach Terrace (T) Level of the building. Prior to leaving the facility, please take your ticket to either security desk (Ground lever or Terrace level) for validation. **Do not park at 510 S. Vermont Ave. structure. Violators may be towed at vehicle owner's expense.**

Please review and let me know if you have any questions.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call me at (213) 304-4180 no later than 9:00 a.m., Friday June 5, 2026.

Siranush Vardanyan
L.A County Commission on Human Relations
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
510 S. Vermont Ave., 15th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 304-4180

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations - 510 S. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90020 (213) 738-2788

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Monday, June 8, 2026 – 12:30-2:00 pm
LA County Vermont Corridor Building - 510 S. Vermont Avenue - LA, CA 90020
15th Floor Conference Room

Also via MS Teams Video and Audio Conferencing 213-204 2512,,980587174# Click here to join the meeting
Our mission: to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment –** Helen Chin, President **(12:30)**

2. **Meeting Minutes –** Ilan Davidson, Vice-President/Secretary
   Review and approval of proposed minutes of May 4, 2026 Commission meeting*

3. **President's Report** – Helen Chin, President **(12:33)**
   3.1. Spotlight on staff: Ornella Kakou (she, her), new Commission temp. staff
   3.2. Experience of participating in the Commission's Election Protection work for recent elections
   3.3. LA vs Hate Palestinian Community Mural Process
   3.4. LA Youth Poet Laureate event

4. **Executive Director's Report –** Robert Sowell, Assistant Executive Director **(12:45)**
   4.1. Program, Administrative and Budget Updates
      i Program Updates: Commission and LA vs Hate presence/support for Islamic Center of Southern California in the aftermath of the May 18th anti-Muslim murders in San Diego; Election Protection work with County Registrar-Recorder/Clerk; latest on creating human rights reporting and assistance system for 6/12-7/10/26 FIFA World Cup games in LA, including disability site visits at SoFi and Coliseum stadiums*
      ii Budget and Administration: Commission request for permission to spend budgeted funds for key needs (spending freeze), including Human Rights protection/prevention actions/'No wrong door' human rights portal for FIFA World Cup and beyond for LA County, and Commission Leadership Conference on June 10th*

   4.2. Communications Update

5. **Committee Reports** **(12:55)**
   5.1. Nominations Committee – Commissioner De Paula, Chair (see item 7.1 below)

6. **Public Comment** (3 minutes per person) **(1:05)**

7. **Action/Discussion Items** **(1:10)**
   7.1. Nominations Committee presentation of proposed slate; nominations from the floor

7.2. Revisiting the name of the Commission's human relations awards*
7.3. Changes in State Law regarding online participation in Commission meetings due to SB 707, effective July 1st*
7.4. Honoring Isabelle Gunning

8.Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner) **(1:55)**

9. Adjournment – in memory of the three American Muslims – Amin Abdullah, Mansour Kaziha, Nadir Awad - who were killed in the anti-Muslim shootings at the Islamic Center of San Diego on May 18th

For translation to other languages o para más información en español, call (213) 738-2788 or email us.
* Denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.
Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at (213) 738-7288 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Human Relations Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by teleconference communication from the following corresponding locations: Jeanette EllisRoyston: NAACP PVB Bldg. 2 Rm. 6 at 1460 East Holt Ave. Pomona, CA, 91767; Kevork Keushkerian: 1115 Valley View Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107]

PUBLIC COMMENT

When prompted by staff, members of the public sector may request to provide public comment after each item:

- If joining in person, staff will call upon individuals who signed up to speak on an item.
- If joining remotely via Teams, please use the "raise your hand" feature then unmute microphone once enabled.
- Callers by phone, dial *5 to raise hand, once called upon dial *6 to unmute.

Los Angeles County
Commission on Human Relations

510 South Vermont Avenue, 15th floor
Los Angeles, California 90020
www.lahumanrelations.org
(213) 738-2788

PROPOSED MINUTES

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of May 4, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:	Helen Chin	Preeti Kulkarni
	Ilan Davidson	Fredrick Sykes
	Dandy De Paula*	Gay Yuen
	Jason Moss	Serena Oberstein*
	Azusena Favela*	Jeanette Ellis-Royston*
	Kevork Keushkerian*	Michael Gi Hao-Cheung
ABSENT:	Derric Johnson	
	Lisa Dabbs	
STAFF:	Brittany Martinez	Siranush Vardanyan
	Robin Toma	Pierre Arreola

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Helen Chin called to order the meeting of the Executive Committee at 12:34 p.m. President Chin began by reading the LA County Land Acknowledgment, which can be found at the following link: Land Acknowledgment – (lacounty.gov). She recognized the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples as original inhabitants of these lands, honoring and paying respect to their elders and descendants; acknowledged that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multi-generational trauma; and reminded us of our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation, and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County.

2. **Review & Approval of March 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes and April 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** The proposed minutes of the Commission meeting of March 2, 2026 as submitted by Vice President-Secretary (VP-Sec.) Ilan Davidson presented as well as the minutes for the April 6, 2026 Executive Committee

* This commissioner, and others marked by an asterisk, attended the meeting via internet video (MS Teams link), providing their location address for inclusion on the posted agenda, in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies.

** This commissioner, and others marked by double asterisks, attended the meeting via internet video (MS Teams link), but did not provide their location address on time for inclusion on the posted agenda, and were therefore not in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies, causing them not to be counted for quorum or for votes.

meeting to the Commission. A motion to approve the March 2, 2026 Commission meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions. A motion then was made to approve the April 6, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes by Executive Committee members VP-Sec. Davidson and seconded by VP Sykes. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

3. President's Report

3.1 Spotlight on a Partner: Chair Chin noted that there is no spotlighted partner this week.

3.2 Privileges as Freedoms and Limitations: President Chin provided an update on the Commission's Human Relations Awards held on March 18th. She described the event as meaningful and uplifting, particularly during a time that feels heavy for many. President Chin noted that it was inspiring to hear from organizations about the important work they continue to do within communities, often quietly and without recognition. She shared that the event served as a reminder that impactful work is ongoing. She also expressed appreciation for the commissioners who attended and noted that the ceremony honored state Attorney General Rob Bonta and Angelica Salas of CHIRLA as countywide award recipients.

4. Executive Director's Report

4.1 Budget, Admin and Program Updates

i. **Program Updates – Advances in creating human rights reporting and assistance system for 6/12-7/10/26 FIFA World Cup games in LA including prevention and response; virtual participation in 4/9-10 Social Practice of Human Rights conference in Dayton, OH; preparing to protect voters' rights for June elections; 4/19/16 LA County (ARDI) – UCLA Training Symposium on Identity-Based Hate and Violence; HRC-led trainings 4/22-5/28 with LA vs Hate Rapid Response Network (anti-bias), Public Defender's Office (communications for empathy, respect and care), Public Works (managing workplace conflict):** ED Toma provided remarks emphasizing the importance of civic engagement and voting in light of recent Supreme Court decisions impacting the Voting Rights Act. He noted concerns regarding efforts in several states to weaken minority-majority districts through gerrymandering, while also highlighting optimism surrounding several Senate and House races that could significantly impact election outcomes. ED Toma reiterated the Commission's encouragement for community mobilization and reminded attendees about the Commission's LA vs Hate "Vote Against Hate" campaign materials (that are to remind voters that voting may have an impact on hate activity, but makes no reference to any candidate or ballot measure), available in both English and Spanish, which were recently featured at a UCLA symposium and shared through the Registrar-Recorder's office and social media platforms.

ED Toma then presented programmatic updates related to the Commission's ongoing work. He highlighted efforts to develop the County's Human Rights Reporting and Assistance System in preparation for the upcoming World Cup and elections, including training election volunteers to help ensure voters feel safe and protected from intimidation. He shared that the Commission's prior recommendations had been forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and discussed ongoing coordination with County partners to expand reporting capacity nothing that residents will soon be able to report potential civil and human rights violations through multiple methods, including calling 211, reporting via a website with QR code access, a text-reporting feature, and a dedicated email address.

Additional updates included meetings with human trafficking stakeholders, including law enforcement and community-based organizations, regarding systems for reporting labor and sex trafficking concerns during major events. ED Toma also discussed ongoing accessibility site visits for the World Cup, including SoFi stadium and the Coliseum, to ensure accommodations for individuals with disabilities. He further reported on his virtual participation in the national "Social Practice of Human Rights" conference held in Dayton, Ohio, on April 9th and 10th.

ED Toma also provided updates on the Commission's training and outreach efforts, noting that recruitment for election volunteers was nearly complete. He thanked Commissioners Chin and Ellis Royston for supporting us by volunteering. He further summarized several upcoming trainings and consultations being facilitated by the Commission, including partnerships with the Department of Child Support Services, the LA vs Hate Rapid Response Network, the Public Defender's Office, and the Department of Public Works, focused on diverse topics including workplace communication, cultural sensitivity, employee engagement, and conflict resolution.

ii. **Budget and Administration: Commission request for permission to spend budgeted funds for key needs (spending 'freeze'), including Human Rights protection/prevention actions/ 'No wrong door' human rights portal for FIFA World Cup and beyond for LA County:** ED Toma provided additional updates regarding the County's ongoing budget freeze and its impact on Human Relations Commission programming and World Cup-related initiatives. He informed the Commission that, due to the County's budget crisis and spending restrictions, expenditures over $5,000 now require additional justification and approval, despite being part of our approved budget. ED Toma explained that departments are now reassessing expenditures in an effort to redirect unused funds toward other budget deficits. He noted that expenditures for election-related de-escalation and violence prevention efforts had been approved, while several other expenditure requests are pending decision.

The Commission then engaged in discussion regarding funding responsibilities and coordination related to World Cup planning and major events. Commissioners raised questions regarding the role of the City, the CEO's Major Events Team, and the Host Committee in supporting costs associated with human rights and accessibility initiatives. ED Toma explained that the Commission had stepped into a leadership role due to its subject matter expertise and commitment to protecting LA County residents during large-scale events. Discussion also focused on the World Cup serving as an opportunity to identify planning and communication gaps ahead of future major events, including the Super Bowl and the 2028 Olympics.

ED Toma further clarified the jurisdictional complexities surrounding the City of Los Angeles, the LA Host Committee, and the LA Sports and Entertainment Commission, explaining that while the City established the Host Committee, funding contributions from the City have been limited due to concerns regarding cost overruns and financial liability related to future Olympic events. He shared that the Host Committee ultimately offered to provide funding toward the Commission's human rights implementation efforts after recognizing the value of the Commission's expertise and the effectiveness of the LA vs Hate initiative as a foundation for a human rights reporting/remedies system. ED Toma noted that this collaboration strengthened the Commission's ability to protect County residents and expand outreach efforts without relying solely on City action.

4.2. Communications Update: ED Toma reported that communications updates had largely been covered throughout the earlier reports and there were no additional major announcements at this time.

5 Committee Reports

5.1 Human Rights Committee: Committee chair/Commissioner Gay Yuen was unable to attend the previously held committee meeting and asked if ED Toma or Manager Arreola would fill in the Commission on discussion held during the meeting. Arreola reported on the Human Rights Committee meeting, including agreement to extend committee meeting time from 60 to 90 minutes to accommodate the volume of substantive agenda items. He noted some scheduling considerations but emphasized the need for additional time to support effective discussions and quorum for voting items.

Manager Arreola shared updates on World Cup-related human rights planning, including coordination with the LA Host Committee, development of grievance and remedy mechanisms such as the 211 campaign, and efforts to incorporate land acknowledgements and public messaging strategies tied to anti-hate initiatives. He also noted the submission and ongoing engagement on the Board-directed human rights report.

Manager Arreola further shared progress on election-related initiatives, including enhancements to election worker training, expansion of the Election Resource Liaison program, and improvements to de-escalating/mediation training. He reported continued coordination with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and preparations for expanded recruitment and deployment efforts, including increased staffing capacity for upcoming elections.

6. Public Comment: President Chin inquired if there was anyone wishing to make a public comment, and there was none.

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1 Create/Approve Nominations Committee and its membership: President Chin explained that last month the Commission did not meet so the Executive Committee recommended that the Committee be comprised as follows:

District 1: Gay Yuen
District 2: Derric Johnson
District 3: Preeti Kulkarni
District 4: Dandy DePaula
District 5: Kevork Keushkerian

President Chin noted that she would like to appoint Commissioner Dandy De Paula as chair. A motion was made by Commissioner Davidson to accept the Executive Committee recommendation and to approve the Nominations Committee and its membership as stated above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yuen and the motion passed unanimously with no abstention or objections.

7.2 Revisiting the name of the Commission's human relations awards: The Commission discussed revisiting the name of the Commission's Human Relations Awards due to concerns regarding John Anson Ford's involvement in the deportation and repatriation efforts affecting Mexican Americans during the 1930s. Staff provided historical context acknowledging both his contributions to the County's human relations efforts and his connection to those actions. Based on this history, and the period we are now experiencing involving mass targeting in LA County of Latinos for deportation, staff recommended removing his name from the awards and the associated trust fund.

Commissioners expressed support for renaming the awards to better reflect the mission and values of the Commission rather than honoring an individual. Discussion also included the importance of selecting a new name that would clearly distinguish the awards from the Commission's separate Human Rights Award.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss to approve staff's recommendation to remove the John Anson Ford name from the Commission human relations awards and the corresponding Commission committee, and direct the Awards Event committee to develop recommendations for a new award name for future Commission consideration; the motion was seconded by VP-Sec. Davidson. The motion passed unanimously.

7.3 Change Commission meeting of June 1st to June 8th: President Chin made a proposal to change the upcoming Commission meeting date from Monday, June 1st to Monday, June 8th because both she and other commissioners, as well as AED Sowell, will be working that day as part of the Commission's voter protection project The motion was made by Commissioner Sykes and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni. The motion passed unanimously.

7.4 SB 707 Changes of State Law Requirements- Commission Meetings: Staff Siranush Vardanyan shared a summary of the SB 707 changes of state law requirements for meetings. The Commission compiled a list of questions to ask Commission Services and/or County Counsel as follow-up.

7.5 Honoring Commissioner Isabelle Gunning- Commission actions in recent and upcoming memorial celebrations (4/20 Southwestern Law School memorial): The Commission received an update regarding memorial efforts honoring Commissioner Gunning. ED Toma thanked Commissioners for their support and contributions during Commissioner Gunning's illness, including sending flowers and a blanket. Updates were shared regarding recent and upcoming memorial events, including a memorial hosted by Southwestern Law School in partnership with the ACLU, where ED Toma delivered remarks on behalf of the Commission. ED Toma also noted that Commissioner Gunning's daughter is planning an additional memorial event in the fall, in which the Commission is expected to participate. Additional updates included recognition of Commissioner Gunning by the Board of Supervisors through an adjournment in her memory. ED Toma also shared the idea of presenting a posthumous honor for Commissioner Gunning at the Commission's upcoming 50th Human Relations Awards event. Commissioners expressed appreciation for those who attended the memorial services and shared information regarding the anticipated fall memorial gathering.

8. Commissioner Announcements: ED Toma shared information regarding an upcoming leadership conference hosted by the County's Quality and Productivity Commission scheduled for June 10 at the Music Center. He explained that the Commission was allotted three commissioner attendees and

noted that the event agenda included presentations from six County department directors, the Acting CEO, Executive Officer Edward Yen, and Board of Supervisors members. ED Toma invited interested commissioners to notify staff of their interest in attending before the RSVP deadline and noted that, if interest exceeded available spots, a process would be determined to finalize attendance. He also briefly reflected on the previous year's conference and its featured presentations.

VP-Sec. Davidson additionally shared that he recently delivered the invocation at Supervisor Hahn's State of the County address in San Pedro, which was attended by approximately 300 individuals. He commented on Supervisor Hahn's candid remarks regarding County challenges and encouraged commissioners to attend similar County events and engagements when possible.

9. **Adjournment:** A motion by VP-Sec. Davidson was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Cheung, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary

LA vs HATE

Reach out and get help.
Support is free, confidential, and available in +140 languages.
Call 211 or visit www.LAvsHate.org

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED HARASSMENT OR DISCRIMINATION RELATED TO IMMIGRATION?

If someone targets you because they think you may be an immigrant — or because of your race, ethnicity, language, or national origin — it may be an illegal act of hate or discrimination. Your legal, civil and human rights may have been violated.

You are entitled to help, regardless of your immigration status.

You decide what information you share and what support you want to receive.

WHY REACH OUT TO LA VS HATE?

- **It's easy**: You can either go online to LAvsHate.org or call 211 (LA County)
- **It's important**: By reporting, it helps us to stop hate and discrimination
- **It's free**: You can speak to trained specialists called "care coordinators" who will help you find the help you need, including accessing legal referrals and know-your-rights resources, as well as mental health and emotional support services

YOUR INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

- You can remain **anonymous**
- Your personal information is **confidential**. It is **not shared** with immigration authorities or law enforcement
- LA vs Hate **does not work with ICE**
- You are never required to speak with law enforcement in order to receive help

WHAT DOES HATE LOOK LIKE?

- Harassment or threats because someone believes you are an immigrant
- Discrimination in housing, work, school, or public spaces
- Verbal harassment based on language, accent, or national origin
- Being targeted because of your race, ethnicity, or culture

Not sure if it is an act of hate or discrimination?
We can help you figure it out - You can still reach out to LA vs Hate for help.

Call 211 or visit www.LAvsHate.org

¿HAS SUFRIDO ACOSO O DISCRIMINACIÓN RELACIONADA CON LA INMIGRACIÓN?

Si alguien te ataca porque cree que podrías ser inmigrante — o por tu raza, etnicidad, idioma u origen nacional — puede tratarse de un acto ilegal de odio o discriminación. Es posible que se hayan violado tus derechos legales, civiles y humanos.

Tienes derecho a recibir ayuda, sin importar tu estatus migratorio.

Tú decides qué información compartir y qué tipo de apoyo recibir

¿POR QUÉ CONTACTAR A LA vs HATE?

- **Es fácil**: Puedes visitar LAvsHate.org o llamar al 211 (Condado de Los Ángeles)
- **Es importante**: Al reportar, ayudas a detener el odio y la discriminación
- **Es gratis**: Puedes hablar con especialistas capacitados llamados "coordinadores de atención", quienes te ayudarán a encontrar el apoyo que necesitas, incluyendo recursos legales, información de "conoce tus derechos", y servicios de apoyo emocional y de salud mental

TU INFORMACIÓN ES CONFIDENCIAL

- Puedes permanecer en el **anonimato**
- Tu información personal es **confidencial y no se comparte** con autoridades de inmigración ni con la policía
- LA vs Hate **no trabaja con ICE**
- Nunca tienes que hablar con la policía para recibir ayuda

¿CÓMO SE VE EL ODIO?

- Acoso o amenazas porque alguien cree que eres inmigrante
- Discriminación en la vivienda, el trabajo, la escuela o espacios públicos
- Acoso verbal por el idioma, el acento o el origen nacional
- Ser atacado por tu raza, etnicidad o cultura

¿No estás seguro de si es odio o discriminación?
Podemos ayudarte a identificarlo. Igual puedes comunicarte con nosotros.

May 19, 2026 – PRESS RELEASE

LA County Library and LA vs Hate Partner to Expand Anti-Hate Resources Across Los Angeles County

Countywide "Signs of Solidarity" campaign brings 40,000+ anti-hate materials to LA County Library locations to promote inclusion and belonging ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

LA County Library and LA vs Hate have launched a countywide partnership to expand access to anti-hate resources and community engagement opportunities at library locations across Los Angeles County [/locations/].

Through its network of 87 locations serving 3.6 million residents, LA County Library will help distribute more than 40,000 "Signs of Solidarity" materials, including yard signs, posters, and bookmarks, to encourage inclusion, promote awareness, and connect residents to resources for reporting acts of hate and discrimination.

As Los Angeles prepares to welcome a global audience during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the partnership aims to reinforce the County's values of inclusion, belonging, and respect through visible community-centered outreach across the region.

"Now more than ever, Los Angeles County remains deeply committed to fostering inclusivity, belonging, and respect throughout our region," said Los Angeles County Board Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis. "This is more than a campaign. It is a united stance against hate that recognizes the vital role we all play in encouraging open dialogue and empowering our communities to stand up for one another. Together, we are strengthening the values that define who we are as a County."

"LA County Library is proud to partner with LA vs Hate to ensure our communities have access to resources that promote understanding, connection, and belonging. Libraries are trusted public spaces where people come together to learn, engage, and connect across differences," said Dr. Skye Patrick, County Librarian and Director of LA County Library. "By making these materials available at our locations, we are helping foster informed communities and ensuring residents know where to turn for support."

"Libraries and other trusted community spaces play a vital role in preventing hate before it happens. They are places where people of all backgrounds come together to learn, connect, and feel a sense of belonging," said Robin Toma, Executive Director of the LA County Commission on Human Relations, the lead agency for LA vs Hate. "Through this valued partnership with LA County Library, we are making messages of inclusion more visible, while ensuring residents know where to turn for support, resources, and ways to stand against hate and for human rights in their own communities."

This partnership builds on the Library's longstanding role as a community anchor providing welcoming spaces, educational resources, and programs that bring people together across cultures and backgrounds. Through curated materials, displays, and outreach, the Library will help amplify anti-hate messaging while connecting residents to information and support services available through LA vs Hate.

The effort is part of LA vs Hate's broader "Signs of Solidarity" campaign, a growing countywide initiative designed to make messages of inclusion and belonging visible across neighborhoods, public spaces, and cultural institutions. The campaign has engaged communities through signage, public art, and partnerships with local organizations, including murals and creative projects that reflect neighborhood identity and promote empathy and understanding.

Together, LA County Library and LA vs Hate are expanding this work through a shared commitment to education and community engagement, recognizing that trusted public spaces play a critical role in fostering dialogue and strengthening community resilience.

Residents can pick up free "Signs of Solidarity" materials in English or Spanish while supplies last. To find your nearest library location, visit LACountyLibrary.org [/locations/].

For more information or to report acts of hate and discrimination, visit LAvsHate.org [https://LAvsHate.org] or call 2-1-1.

About LA County Library
LA County Library belongs to our communities and serves as a portal to learn, grow, and succeed. Founded in 1912, it is one of the largest and most innovative library systems in the US, and was awarded the nation's highest honor—the National Medal for Museum and Library Service—in 2023. Dedicated to reducing barriers and increasing access for all through culturally responsive and dynamic collections, programs, and services, LA County Library serves 3.6 million residents across 3,000 square miles through its 87 libraries and 15-vehicle mobile fleet, including Bookmobiles, MākMō maker mobiles, and outreach vehicles. To learn more, visit LACountyLibrary.org [/] and follow @LACountyLibrary on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/LACountyLibrary], Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/lacountylibrary/], TikTok [https://www.tiktok.com/@lacountylibrary], X [https://twitter.com/lacountylibrary], and YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/user/LACountyLibrary].

About the LA County Commission on Human Relations
The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations [https://hrc.lacounty.gov/] is dedicated to protecting human rights and promoting positive human relations in our richly diverse, multicultural county throughout all five Supervisorial Districts. The Commission works to develop programs that proactively address racism, homophobia, religious prejudice, linguistic bias, anti-immigrant sentiment, and other divisive attitudes that can lead to intercultural tension, hate crimes, and related violence. For more information about LA County's Commission on Human Relations, click here [https://hrc.lacounty.gov/about-us/who-we-are/].

IN LOS ANGELES YOUR RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED

GET HELP BY REPORTING

Hate or Discrimination
Immigrant and Worker Rights Violations
Human Trafficking

CALL 211

OR VISIT
211LA.ORG/HUMANRIGHTS

Reporting is confidential
If this is an emergency call 911

@211LA

LA vs HATE

EN LOS ÁNGELES SI VES ABUSO, ACTÚA

ESTAMOS CÓNTIGO

OBTÉN AYUDA AL REPORTAR

Incidentes de odio o discriminación
Violaciones de los derechos de inmigrantes y trabajadores
Trata de personas

LLAMA AL 211

O VISITA
211LA.ORG/HUMANRIGHTS

El reporte es confidencial
Si es una emergencia, llama al 911

@211LA

LA VS HATE

GUIDANCE FOR THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations
(revised 4-1-26)

Creation of the Nominations Committee is the beginning of our process to elect the Commission's officers for each fiscal year (FY), which runs from July 1st to June 30th.

To create the Nominations Committee, **we seek one commissioner from each Supervisorial District (SD)**. Typically, the commissioner representing her/his SD isn't running for office. (But historically this has sometimes not been feasible or impractical if, for example, a given SD has only one or two commissioners of that SD.)

It is suggested that the commissioners contact the other commissioners of the same SD to discuss **who will be your SD's representative on the Nominations Committee**. (The list of the other commissioners of your SD is below towards the end of this message.)

Here are key info and context:

1. The goal is for you to report at our upcoming Commission meeting who your SD representative member will be on the Nominations Committee.

2. Once the Commission votes to approve who will comprise the Nominations Committee, the committee will be expected to meet in April (which staff can facilitate) to discuss and present its slate at the full Commission meeting in May.

3. At the Commission meeting in May, the Nominations Committee chair announces the slate of nominees, and then invites any nominations from the floor, after which nominations are closed.

4. At the following Commission meeting in June, a vote is taken of all commissioners present on the candidates/nominees for all officer positions (President, Vice President (VP)/Secretary, plus 3 VPs).

5. **To help you in deciding who should be on the Nominations committee**, let me remind you a bit more of **the charge of the Nominations Committee**. The Nominations Committee is to consider – per the bylaws – who should be on the slate of nominees for Commission officer positions, **based in part on the nominee's record of attendance to commission meetings (both full commission meetings and committee meetings and other events**). The Nominations Committee has historically also evaluated the fitness of a candidate for the job and its duties as a relevant criterion.

   Note that the Commission's bylaws limit the President to two (2) consecutive terms (each term is one (1) year)

6. Also, keep in mind we will need at least 3 of the 5 Nominations Committee members to join a meeting to form a quorum so that the Nominations Committee can meet and take action in coming up with **a slate of candidates for the May meeting**. At that meeting, the floor is also open to any commissioner to be nominated for an office, in addition to the slate.

7. **Per the bylaws, the following Commission meeting (usually June) is for the elections to actually be conducted, based on those candidates** on the slate recommended by the Nominations Committee that was presented at the May meeting, as well as

candidates arising from nominations from the floor at the same May meeting.

8. The term of the new officers begins with the new Fiscal Year, July 1st through June 30th.

(*)Current (FY 2025-26) Officers:
President: Helen Chin (SD2)
Vice President (VP)/Secretary: Ilan Davidson (SD4)
VP: Fredrick Sykes (SD1)
VP: Derric Johnson (SD2)
VP: Kevork Keushkerian (SD5)

Commissioners by Supervisorial District (SD):
SD1: Jeannette Ellis Royston and Gay Q. Yuen
SD2: Azusena Favela
SD3: Preeti Kulkarni and Serena Oberstein
SD4: Lisa Michelle Dabbs and Dandy De Paula
SD5: Michael Gi-Hao Cheung and Jason Moss

7.1 President Chin explained that last month the Commission did not meet so the Executive Committee recommended that the Committee be comprised as follows:

District 1: Gay Yuen
District 2: Derric Johnson
District 3: Preeti Kulkarni
District 4: Dandy DePaula
District 5: Kevork Keushkerian

President Chin noted that she would like to appoint Commissioner Dandy De Paula as chair. A motion was made by Commissioner Davidson to accept the Executive Committee recommendation and to approve the Nominations Committee and its membership as stated above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yuen and the motion passed unanimously with no abstention or objections.

County of Los Angeles
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

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Los Angeles, CA 90020
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
First District

Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Commissioners

Helen L. Chin
President

Ilan Davidson
Vice President/Secretary

Derric J. Johnson
Kevork Keushkerian
Fredrick Sykes
Vice Presidents

Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Lisa Michelle Dabbs
Dandy De Paula
Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Azusena Favela
Preeti P. Kulkarni
Jason Moss
Serena Oberstein
Gay Q. Yuen, Ph.D.

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Sharon Williams
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Josh Parr
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Yadira Pineda-Siordia
Fidel Rodriguez
Paul Smith, Ph.D.
Intergroup Relations Specialists

Pierre Arreola
Deysy Donis-Santos
April Johnson
Monica Lomelí, Ph.D.
Managers

Robert Sowell
Assistant Executive Director

Robin S. Toma, Esq.
Executive Director

May 4, 2026

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Robin S. Toma, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation on Name of Human Relations Awards

Each year we celebrate accomplishments of community partners, acknowledge the impact of exemplary leaders, and elevate the visibility of our work with our Human Relations Awards recognitions. This crucial effort is named for former LA County Supervisor, John Anson Ford.

John Anson Ford was chair of the County Board of Supervisors when our predecessor structure, the County's Joint Committee for Interracial Progress, was established by the Board in January 1944. He was one of the initial members of the Committee. The Committee was replaced by County ordinance in 1958 with the Commission on Human Relations and Ford was named as one of the first Commissioners. That same year he retired from service as a County Supervisor though he continued to serve as a Commissioner for more than ten years.

For a considerable time there have been questions and concerns raised about the appropriateness of our Human Relations Awards being a namesake of John Anson Ford. Certainly, he had important roles in the start of our work. But, in addition, there is ample documentation that at least some of his words and actions were directly contrary to our values and core principles. He was elected as an LA County Supervisor in 1934, near the crest of the multi-year, County-led expulsion of tens of thousands of persons of Mexican descent, a large portion of whom were American citizens, to Mexico during the 1930s. Public records document his cooperation with this effort. In 1941, he was still leading the Board's ongoing work to remove people from the County and transport them across the border. Records of an interview of Ford by a Latina university researcher in 1971 include him making light of the deplorable deportation crusade many years later.

The importance of John Anson Ford to the establishment and early development of our work is undeniable. But so is the conflict of his attitudes and actions with who we are and what we do. Therefore, it is the strong recommendation of the staff that our Human Relations Awards recognitions no longer carry the name "John Anson Ford".

MEMORANDUM

To: Staff and Commissioners
Date: April 1, 2026
Subject: Summary of California Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) – Brown Act Updates

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Overview

California Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) updates the Ralph M. Brown Act, which governs open meetings for local government legislative bodies such as commissions, boards, and councils. The bill modernizes public meeting laws, particularly regarding teleconferencing, public access, meeting transparency, and language accessibility.

Many of the provisions under SB 707 will take effect on July 1, 2026, and certain teleconferencing provisions will remain in effect through January 1, 2030.

The overall purpose of SB 707 is to modernize public meeting requirements, expand public access through remote participation, and create clearer and more consistent teleconferencing rules for legislative bodies.

Major Changes Under SB 707

1. Teleconferencing and Remote Participation

SB 707 revises and expands teleconferencing rules for public meetings. The bill reorganizes previous teleconferencing laws and creates a more unified system for remote participation.

Key updates include:

- Revises rules for remote participation due to “just cause” or emergency circumstances.
- Expands “just cause” reasons to include family and medical issues.
- Requires meeting minutes to identify which law allowed each member to participate remotely.
- Extends teleconference provisions through 2030.
- Applies to local legislative bodies such as commissions, boards, and councils.

These changes combine and replace prior temporary teleconference rules that were created during the COVID-19 emergency period.

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2. Limits on Remote Attendance

SB 707 places limits on how often a member of a legislative body may attend meetings remotely under the “just cause” provision. The number of remote attendances allowed is based on how often the legislative body meets each year.

This provision is intended to ensure that members still attend meetings in person regularly while allowing flexibility when necessary.

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3. Emergency Teleconference Rules

The bill updates procedures for teleconference meetings during emergencies, including:

- State emergencies
- Local emergencies
- Public health emergencies

During declared emergencies, legislative bodies may use alternative teleconference procedures to allow meetings to continue while maintaining public access and participation.

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4. Language Translation Requirements

Beginning July 1, 2026, certain legislative bodies will be required to provide language translation for meeting materials, including agendas, when a significant portion of the community speaks a language other than English.

This requirement is intended to improve public access and participation for non-English-speaking communities.

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5. Meeting Locations and Public Access

SB 707 includes requirements related to meeting accessibility and locations. Legislative bodies must:

- Provide accessible meeting locations
- Continue allowing teleconference participation locations for the public

- Ensure meetings comply with civil rights and nondiscrimination laws
- Maintain public access to meetings whether held in person, remotely, or in hybrid format

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6. Public Participation and Meeting Procedures

SB 707 also updates procedures related to public participation and meeting conduct, including:

- Expands authority to remove disruptive individuals from meetings (both in person and remote)
- Requires special meeting notices to be posted online
- Establishes more uniform emergency meeting procedures
- Clarifies procedures for hybrid meetings

These changes are intended to create consistent procedures across local agencies.

Effective Dates

Provision	Effective Date
Teleconference changes	July 1, 2026
Agenda translation requirements	July 1, 2026
Teleconference provisions extended until	January 1, 2030

Summary

SB 707 represents one of the most significant updates to the Brown Act in recent years. The bill modernizes public meeting requirements by expanding teleconferencing options, increasing public access, requiring language accessibility for meeting materials, and standardizing emergency and remote participation procedures.

Overall, the law is intended to improve transparency, accessibility, and public participation in local government meetings while allowing legislative bodies more flexibility to conduct meetings remotely when necessary.

If your department or commission conducts public meetings subject to the Brown Act, it will be important to review teleconferencing procedures, agenda translation requirements, and meeting access policies before the July 1, 2026 implementation date.

Please see below for the answers from the questions posed in the last Commission meeting regarding SB 707:

"Assuming HRC is exclusively advisory only, meaning, it can discuss, study, advise, and make recommendations, but it cannot take final action. The body cannot take final action on: legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, entitlements, grants, or allocation of funds. Additionally, the primary subject matter jurisdiction focus of the commission can NOT include elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, removing from or restricting library materials, and taxes or related spending proposals.

I think there's some confusion between traditional teleconferencing and SB 707 related provisions. SB 707 gives advisory commissions a much more flexible way to meet virtually or hybrid, but that authority is not automatic. The Board of Supervisors must first authorize the use of SB 707 for eligible subsidiary bodies and make the required findings. Until that happens, commissions should not assume they can use the new SB 707 virtual meeting flexibility.

Without Board authorization, commissions are generally limited to the traditional Brown Act teleconferencing rules or individual member remote participation under the just cause or disability accommodation provisions. Traditional teleconferencing requires the remote locations to be posted and accessible to the public, and at least a quorum must participate from locations within the agency's jurisdiction. Just cause is only for an individual commissioner's limited remote participation and is not a general authority for the entire commission to meet virtually.

If the Board authorizes SB 707 for eligible subsidiary bodies, the commission may use that teleconferencing option on an ongoing basis. The 2 meeting per year limit does not apply to SB 707 virtual or hybrid meetings for eligible subsidiary bodies. That limit applies only when an individual commissioner is using just cause remote participation. Under SB 707, the body must still follow the required rules, including a physical public meeting location, staff presence at that location, real time remote public access and comment, and renewal of the Board findings every six months. SB 707 also currently sunsets on January 1st, 2030, unless extended by future legislation."

Is there a requirement that a quorum has to be present in person? Or is the requirement that a quorum be physically present in the jurisdiction/territory of la county.

1. Traditional Brown Act teleconferencing
   Code section: Government Code section 54953(b)(3):
   No, under traditional Brown Act teleconferencing, the quorum does not have to be physically present in one room. The requirement is that at least a quorum of the members participate from teleconference locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.
2. SB 707 eligible subsidiary bodies, assuming first the BOS has authorized this for subsidiary bodies
   Code section: Government Code section 54953.8.6:
   SB 707 does not require a quorum of members to be physically present in person or physically located within LA County. Instead, the body must designate at least one physical meeting location within the boundaries of the legislative body that created it, where the public can attend, observe, hear, and participate. At least one staff member must be present at that physical location during the meeting.

Does the limit of 2 meetings per year to meet virtually for the qualified exemption for just cause apply to people with chronic medical conditions?

The 2 meeting per year limit applies only when the member is using the "just cause" remote participation provision. It should not be used as the limit for a disability related reasonable accommodation. If the chronic medical condition qualifies as a disability requiring accommodation, it should be handled under Government Code section 54953(c) and applicable disability law, not treated as a regular "just cause" request.

In response to 2 virtual meetings per year- is it calendar year or fiscal year? The 2 meetings per year limit applies to individual member "just cause" remote participation. It does not apply to regular SB 707 virtual or hybrid meetings for eligible subsidiary bodies once the BOS has authorized that teleconferencing option.

What is the way to determine which languages the agenda materials need to be translated into? Is there a numerical or other criteria which should be used? This does not apply to commissions... this is only for the eligible legislative body ie. Board of Supervisors. But this was a very complicated, convoluted process and I developed an excel sheet with all the calculations for all counties in California. For Board of Supervisors meetings, and based on the lastest available census data, this requires material to be provided in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese.

Who makes the decision about which conditions qualify for an exemption? I believe this will go through our HR/DHR process. We worked on an SOPP for this, not sure if it's been finalized.

One Commissioner asked if it would be possible to meet virtually to discuss a matter then come together in person to have a final discussion and vote on it. I would defer to County Counsel.

May 18, 2026 Attack on the Islamic Center of San Diego

(Summary of Wikipedia, BBC, ABC News, CNN, CBS News, NBC7, and the LA Times entries, by Ornella Kacou)

On May 18, 2026, a devastating shooting occurred at the Islamic Center of San Diego (ICSD), the largest mosque in the county. Two heavily armed teenage gunmen, identified as 17-year-old Cain Lee Clark and 18-year-old Caleb Liam Vazquez, took the lives of three community members outside the mosque before fleeing the scene and ultimately ending their own lives.

The tragedy claimed the lives of security guard Amin Abdullah, caretaker Mansour Kaziha, and teacher Nadir Awad.

During their escape, the perpetrators also targeted a landscaper, Tafu Letuli, who miraculously survived when a bullet shattered his protective helmet.

The chairman of the mosque's board of directors, Ahmed Shabaik, emphasized the role the three men had played in responding to the assailants.

Amin Abdullah, the center's security guard and a father of eight, is widely credited with preventing a larger massacre. San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl said that Abdullah's actions were heroic and he was "pivotal" in preventing more bloodshed.

The Council on American–Islamic Relations (CAIR) said in a statement that the shooting occurred amid record-high complaints of bias and discrimination against Muslims. CAIR recorded its highest annual number of complaints in 2025 since beginning such reporting in 1996.

The FBI and the San Diego Police Department are investigating the incident as a hate crime.

Law enforcement recovered a manifesto revealing a deeply nihilistic and violent ideology. The document contained extreme antisemitic, anti-Muslim, anti-Black, anti-Hispanic, misogynistic (incel), and anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric. The perpetrators livestreamed their attack, utilizing Nazi symbols and indicating they sought to emulate previous mass shooters, notably the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacker.

The attack occurred on the first day of Dhul Hijjah, a highly sacred month in the Islamic calendar. In the aftermath, the San Diego community united in a profound display of

solidarity. Hundreds gathered at Lindbergh Park for a vigil, led by religious leaders, elected officials, and advocacy groups. The resounding message from the community was one of resilience.

The scale of solidarity expanded drastically days later on Thursday, May 21, 2026. Thousands of people from across California and the wider United States traveled to attend the public funeral prayer. This turnout served a dual purpose: honoring the three victims as heroes and offering direct support to the grieving families.

As the community united in grief, political leaders across the country added their voices to the collective condemnation.

President Donald Trump referred to the shooting as a "terrible situation" and stated: "I've been given some early updates but we're going to be going back and looking at it very strongly."

Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, decried the attack, stating: "Hate has no place in California and we will not tolerate acts of terror ..."

Todd Gloria, the Mayor of San Diego, also condemned the shooting on the social media platform X, stating: "Anyone who seeks to do harm here should understand the response will be swift and you will be brought to justice. No one in our city should ever have to fear for their safety in a house of faith."