



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California, 90020

(213) 738-2788
<http://www.lahumanrelations.org>

[PROPOSED] MINUTES

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Meeting of May 4, 2020

Meeting via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT:	Jarrett Tomás Barrios	Derric Johnson
	Ilan Davidson	Preeti Kulkarni
	Adrian Dove	Sam Liu
	Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Guadalupe Montaña
	Michael Gi-Hao Cheung	Fredrick Sykes
	Isabelle Gunning	Sandra Thomas
ABSENT:	Porter Gilberg	
STAFF:	Robert Sowell	Jaye Winter
	Grace Löwenberg	

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. with a quorum of 12 commissioners in attendance.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Michael Cheung to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of April 6, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. President's Report**
 - 3.1 Communication with Dr. Barbara Ferrer on COVID-19:** No report.
 - 3.2 Follow Up with Board Motion Passed on Equity Regarding Public Health Tracking of COVID-19:** No report.
- 4. Executive Director's Report**
 - 4.1 Updates on Countywide Equity in Response & Budget:** Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell gave the report in place of Executive Director Robin Toma who was absent. Mr. Sowell reported that the Branch is actively working to address the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on communities and vulnerable populations—particularly Asian residents of LA County—in numerous ways. Among them, in addition to press conferences and interviews noted previously, being the tracking of Anti Hate Initiative (AHI) related calls received by 211 LA. The Branch is also closely collaborating with the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON) who is likewise fielding and tracking such calls. With that incoming data, the Branch is preparing an analysis of those combined calls, and will be conveyed to commissioners later this week.

Separately, the Branch in coordination with DHR who together form the core of the Countywide Equity Initiative (CEI), also hosted a meeting last week with a yet wider swath of Equity-related leaders from departments across the County to advance equity in light of and specifically as it relates to COVID-19. A further follow-up meeting is in the planning stages to raise awareness of specific, identified gaps in equity. CEO continues advising the CEI in the development of a sustainable funding model.

4.2 Report on Rise in Hate Due to COVID-19 & Commission Response; Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) Grant, and Special Network Against Hate Crime (NAHC) Meeting: Mr. Sowell relayed that the Branch hosted a special meeting of the Network Against Hate Crime last Thursday, featuring A3PCON and Asian Americans Advancing Justice as key presenters.

Also, the Branch and DHR as CEI leads have been approved for a Quality & Productivity Commission (QPC) Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) grant to develop a continuation of Implicit Bias & Cultural Competency (IB/CC) online training. The training will be specific to Disaster Service Workers (DSWs).

Separately, the County and CEO are weighing possible budgetary curtailments due to the fiscal effects of the pandemic. The Branch, WDACS, and all departments are to submit budget reduction scenarios in the amounts of 10%, 15%, and 20%. It is possible that any of those scenarios may prevent the hiring of a further Senior Human Relations Consultant (Sr. HRC), and future positions in general. At present, the County does not intend to furlough or layoff existing positions.

Finally, Mr. Sowell introduced Mr. Simon Isaacs, CEO of TaskForce. Taskforce is a civic and social organization that is scaling-up the marketing of the Anti Hate Initiative. He provided a campaign overview and cited over three billion views of their content in the last 75 days pertaining to the pandemic. TaskForce is building hundreds of pieces of virtual content to be disseminated online, and which are shared easily, for example, via social media.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Committee Chair Gunning shared that the schedule for the anticipated policing report has shifted slightly to give staff time to incorporate graphics, and Board deputies more time to provide feedback. The goal is to share the report with commissioners at the June 1 meeting. The video likewise remains in post-production. Gunning noted uncertainty about what kind of response to anticipate from Sheriff Alex Villanueva, given much of the report's data when collected dates back to former Sheriff Jim McDonnell's tenure. The Sheriff may or may choose not distance himself from his predecessor. In any event, the issues in the report remain live and relevant. It is unlikely that any response at this moment in the process will dramatically alter the report.

5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Committee Chair Davidson reported that the committee is in process of revising the award nominations form, and once finalized will have it disseminated to the full commission. He reminded all that the JAF Awards ceremony has been moved to January 19, 2021—the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

5.3 Ad Hoc IAOHRA LA 2020 Conference Committee: Committee Chair Davidson briefly recounted that discussions are continuing between the IAHORA national board and Hotel indigo, to reschedule the conference for summer 2021.

5.4 Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee: Committee Chair Guadalupe Montaña relayed that in discussing a commission statement on COVID-19 developments, the committee agreed it is essential to invoke explicitly the importance of anti hate response in this, and in any comparable events. The

committee is also working and partnering with LA Crime Stoppers, which collects anonymous reports of hate. Their data will inform the statement and may be integrated. Montañó and the committee continue awaiting statement draft language by the Executive Director. Separately but likewise, she and the committee are awaiting direction from the Executive Director pertaining to the statement on the Commission and Branch's place in County structure in light of a possible department re-organization and creation of standalone Workforce as well as Aging departments.

Finally, Commissioner Dove suggested that the committee might wish to consider issuing a statement of appreciation for California's relatively proactive statewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Including the County and City of Los Angeles, and Governor Gavin Newsom and Mayor Eric Garcetti, specifically.

5.5 Ad Hoc Committee on Equity of Impact & Response to COVID-19: No report. Commissioner Dove suggested adding to the committee's agenda the concern of material inequities among students in LA County. Specifically with respect to access to technology, remote devices, and Internet access. The item will be covered further in committee.

6. Action/Discussion Items

6.1 Creation of the Nominations Committee: President Barrios prefaced the item, explaining that the commission's annual creation of the officers Nominations Committee was delayed this year by one month due to the COVID-19 related states of emergency.

Without objection, the president designated Commissioners Jeanette Ellis-Royston (District 1), Dove (District 2), Sam Liu (District 3), Preeti Kulkarni (District 4), and Cheung (District 5), to constitute the officers Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee will create and submit a slate of fiscal year 2020-2021 officers for the commission's consideration at the June 1 meeting.

6.2 Commission Statement on COVID-19: Item covered in 5.4.

6.3. Computers for LAUSD Students to Address Inequities (Sykes): Item covered in 5.2.

6.4 Policing & Human Relations Report and Recommendations: Item tabled.

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

8. Adjournment: It was moved by Davidson and seconded by Sandra Thomas to adjourn the meeting in memory of Irene Y. Hirano, founder of the Japanese American National Museum. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montañó
Commission Vice President-Secretary