



County of Los Angeles
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

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

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HUMAN RELATIONS**

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"Enriching lives through effective and caring services"

July 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: **Meeting of the Commission/Executive Committee on Human Relations, July 6, 2026**

Our Commission will meet on **Monday, July 6, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., at 510 S. Vermont Ave., Terrace Level (9th floor), conference room VCHQ TK08, Los Angeles.** You may also join meeting via Microsoft Teams: [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 the agenda outside your location so it is visible to the public, and adhere to other legal requirements (such as timely providing your location address for inclusion on the agenda).

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 level 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 Ornella at (323) 719-9187 as soon as possible, and no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, July 6, 2026.

Ornella Kacou

L.A County Commission on Human Relations
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
510 S. Vermont Ave., 15th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(323) 719-9187



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, July 6, 2026 – 12:30-2:00 pm

LA County Vermont Corridor Building - 510 S. Vermont Avenue - LA, CA 90020
Terrace Level (9th 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: Azusena Favela (recently resigned member of the commission)
 - 3.2. Opportunity to express appreciation to former Commissioner Favela
 - 3.3. Update on Palestinian Cultural Wealth Community mural
 - 3.4. Reflections on the 250th Anniversary of U.S. Independence*
- 4. Executive Director's Report – Robin Toma, Executive Director (12:45)**
 - 4.1. Program, Administrative and Budget Updates
 - i Program Updates: (1) June 4th National Human Rights conference, Philadelphia, PA*; (2) June 8th Statewide Peacemakers conference, LA*; (3) launch of LA County human rights reporting and assistance system for World Cup games in LA;* (4) LA vs Hate at SD2 Juneteenth celebration;* (5) CAM's Commemorating Vincent Chin event of June 23rd*
 - ii Budget and Administration: QPC Commission Leadership Conference on June 10 (Commissioner Davidson)
 - 4.2. Communications Update – Dana Coffman of TaskForce on news coverage of our LA County Human Rights World Cup help line*
- 5. Committee Reports (12:55)**
 - 5.1. Human Rights Committee Meeting of 6/30/26*
- 6. Public Comment (3 minutes per person) (1:05)**
- 7. Action/Discussion Items (1:10)**
 - 7.1. Elections of Commission President, VP-Secretary, and 3 VPs for FY 2026-27*
 - 7.2. Changes in State Law regarding online participation in Commission meetings due to SB 707, effective July 1st*
 - 7.3. Honoring Isabelle Gunning

8. Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner)

(1:55)

9. Adjournment – In memory of LA County resident and human rights activist Kiyoko Nancy Oda*, and the at least 2,295 who died and nearly 50,000 missing due to the earthquakes in Venezuela.

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 Ellis-Royston, NAACP PVB Office, 1460 E Holt Ave (Entrance 2 Room 6 Pomona, CA 91767, Derric J. Johnson, 515 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90071, Dandy De Paula, 21815 Pioneer Blvd Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716, Kevork Keushkerian, 1115 Valley View Ave Pasadena, CA 91107, Jason Moss, 114A West Lime Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016.

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 June 8, 2026

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

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Helen Chin called to order the meeting at 12:43 p.m. President Chin began by reading the LA County Land Acknowledgment, which can be found at the following link: [Land Acknowledgment – \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/land-acknowledgment). 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 May 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** The proposed minutes of the Commission meeting of May 4, 2026 as submitted by Vice President-Secretary (VP-Sec.) Ilan Davidson were presented to the Commission. A motion was made to approve the May 4, 2026 Commission Meeting minutes by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes and seconded by Commissioner Serena Oberstein. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

* 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.

3. President's Report

3.1 Spotlight on staff: Ornella Kakou (she, her), new Commission temp. staff: Staff Kacou introduced herself and shared her passion for advocacy for human rights. She said it is a pleasure to be working with the Human Relations Commission. The Commissioners took turns introducing themselves and welcoming her.

3.2 Experience of participating in the Commission's Election Protection work for recent elections: President Chin reported on her participation in the County's Election Protection Program during the recent election period. She shared that Election Resource Liaisons (ERLs) were assigned to vote centers throughout the County to help ensure voters could cast ballots free from interference or intimidation and to provide support to election workers when needed. President Chin noted the dedication of election workers and expressed confidence in the integrity of Los Angeles County's election and vote-counting processes.

3.3 LA vs Hate Palestinian Community Mural Process: President Chin shared positive outcomes from recent community mural activities. She noted that LA vs Hate has been organizing community mural-making gatherings, which she hopes will continue to strengthen community connections and foster a deeper sense of belonging among participants.

3.4 LA Youth Poet Laureate event: President Chin reported on the annual LA Youth Poet Laureate Program event, which the Commission has supported in partnership for the past 14 years. She noted that the program provides young people from across Los Angeles County an opportunity to share their experiences through poetry and art. President Chin highlighted the importance of arts and culture in fostering human relations, empathy, and shared understanding, and encouraged participation in the annual event, which is typically held the first weekend of June.

4. Executive Director's Report

4.1 Budget, Admin and Program 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*:** AED Sowell reported that, in the aftermath of the May 18th anti-Muslim shootings, representatives from the Islamic Center, LA vs Hate, and numerous community members gathered to express their support and solidarity. He further reported that, at the request of Supervisorial District Four, HRC attended a gathering at a mosque in La Mirada the following day.

AED Sowell continued his report on the Election Protection Project, noting that Registrar-Recorder leaders had been considering the November elections and potential disruptions stemming from the current political climate. Uncertain whether they had the capacity to manage such disruptions, they reached out to the Human Relations Commission (HRC) several months prior to the November election for assistance. HRC subsequently deployed approximately 25 individuals to assist at various locations throughout the County.

For the most recent election, 42 individuals were deployed across the County

during the final four days of voting to respond to potential disruptions and tensions that might arise at voting locations. AED Sowell reported that, shortly after 8:00 a.m. on Election Day, a team of ICE agents arrived at a vote center in Simi Valley. Because the vote center was located on state park property, park rangers spoke with the agents, who subsequently left the site.

AED Sowell further explained that Election Resource Liaisons were able to work directly with individuals managing issues that arose during the election process. He noted that the number of voting locations has increased from 249 to 647, resulting in a greater need to recruit and deploy additional personnel to serve at these sites.

- 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*:** AED Sowell reported that approval had been received to utilize \$228,000 in previously budgeted funds for the current fiscal year. He explained that, due to the County's spending freeze and increased spending restrictions, additional authorization was required before the funds could be expended. The approved funding will support the creation of signage, social media and promotional outreach efforts, increased call-handling capacity through 211 LA, and additional work by service providers. AED Sowell noted that the funding is not new funding, but rather existing budgeted funds that required approval to be released before the fiscal year ends on June 30. He further reported that the funds were authorized through amendments to existing contracts and that the Host Committee had also provided some direct financial support to 211 LA for human rights assistance and promotion of the helpline. Additionally, AED Sowell reminded commissioners of the upcoming Commission Leadership Conference hosted by the Quality and Productivity Commission and stated that staff would distribute a reminder email to interested participants.

4.2. Communications Update: There were no other updates to share.

5 Committee Reports

Nominations Committee – Commissioner De Paula, Chair: With Commissioner De Paula not able to be present at the meeting, nor Commissioner Derric Johnson who was to report in place of Chair De Paula, President Chin reported that the Nominating Committee had met on May 13 and voted unanimously to recommend a proposed slate of officers, which initially included Commissioner Kulkarni for President. President Chin stated that Commissioner Kulkarni is unable to accept the nomination for President (due to recently being appointed to the board of Greenpeace USA) but is willing to serve as Vice President representing District 3. Commissioner Kulkarni noted that Commissioner Davidson had expressed interest in serving another term as President. Following discussion and clarification of the officer positions led by AED Sowell, and no other nominations made from the floor, the proposed slate of nominees was amended to nominate Commissioner Davidson (District 4) for President, Commissioner Chin (District 2) for Vice President/Secretary, Commissioner Sykes for Vice President representing District 1, Commissioner Kulkarni for Vice President representing District 3, and Commissioner Moss for Vice President representing

District 5. A motion was made by Commissioner Keushkerian and Kulkarni and seconded by Commissioner Ellis Royston. The motion passed unanimously.

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 **Nominations Committee presentation of proposed slate; nominations from the floor:** Previously taken up in item 5.1.

- 7.2 **Revisiting the name of the Commission's human relations awards:** Assistant Executive Director (AED) Sowell reminded the Commission that, at the previous meeting, the Commission had agreed to change the name and to await recommendations from the Awards Committee. He noted that the Awards Committee had not yet met and, therefore, had no recommendations to present at this time.

- 7.3 **Changes in State Law regarding online participation in Commission meetings due to SB 707, effective July 1st*:** AED Sowell reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming changes resulting from SB 707, which will take effect on July 1, 2026. The Commissioners discussed the legislation and developed a list of questions to submit to County Counsel for clarification.

- 7.4 **Honoring Commissioner Isabelle Gunning:** AED Sowell reported that there were no new updates regarding the matter. He stated that, as previously shared, the honoree's daughter is planning a special event to take place on a Saturday in September; however, a date has not yet been confirmed. He noted that the item would remain on the agenda so that updated information could be shared with the Commissioners as soon as it becomes available.

8. **Commissioner Announcements:** Commissioner Kevork Keushkerian stated that District 5 does not support County spending on FIFA security, asserting such costs are the responsibility of the city.

9. **Adjournment:** President Chin suggested to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. in the memory of the three American Muslims: Amin Abdullah, Mansour Kaziha, and Nadir Awad, who were killed in the anti-Muslim shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego on May 18th. The motion was moved by Commissioner Ellis Royston, seconded by Commissioner Keushkerian, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary



Azusena Favela

Azusena Favela joined The James Irvine Foundation in 2022 as a Senior Program Officer. Azusena has more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit, government, and private sector, focused on community economic development. She previously served as Deputy Director for the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer & Business Affairs. She was responsible for the County's Foreclosure Prevention, Center for Financial Empowerment, and Office of Small Business programs. She also provided oversight of the department's COVID response strategies, including a cross-jurisdiction partnership to deploy \$108M in small business and nonprofit grants using an equity lens.

Prior to working for Los Angeles County, she served in leadership roles with Inclusive Action for the City (formerly Leadership for Urban Renewal Network), First 5 LA, CD Tech, and New Economics for Women. She also serves on her local neighborhood council.

Azusena was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. She holds a master's degree in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University and a bachelor's degree in History, Chicano/a Studies, and a minor in Education from UCLA.

Azusena represents the Second Supervisorial District on the Commission.

As America Turns 250, San Francisco's Role in Defining Citizenship Endures



Norman Wong stands in front of a mural depicting his great-grandfather, Wong Kim Ark, on the corner of Sacramento and Grant streets in San Francisco's Chinatown on Sunday, June 14, 2026. Wong, 76, was unaware of his connection to the landmark Supreme Court case won by his great-grandfather for most of his life, but now works to share his family's story and history. (*Juliana Yamada/KQED*)

It was a high-pressure moment when Cecillia Wang stepped into the U.S. Supreme Court in April to deliver oral arguments defending [birthright citizenship](#). But, she said, she had the spirit of millions of Americans' ancestors with her.

"I felt a lot of the weight of all those hopes and aspirations, and really a belief in the promise of this country, that birthright citizenship is so much a part of the fabric of what it means to be an American," Wang said.

In the landmark case [Trump v. Barbara](#), Wang — the national legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union — challenged [President Donald Trump's executive order](#), which seeks to deny U.S. citizenship to babies whose parents aren't citizens or permanent legal residents. The

Supreme Court is expected to hand down its highly anticipated ruling by the end of the month.

Birthright citizenship is just one of the landmark legal victories won by 19th-century Chinese immigrants. Their court battles helped secure constitutional protections that remain at the center of today's debates over citizenship, due process and democracy. As the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, Asian American historians, legal scholars and civil rights advocates say those contributions remain largely absent from the national narrative, even as the rights they helped establish face renewed challenges.

The semiquincentennial, they say, offers an opportunity to examine who helped build American democracy — and to recognize that immigrants were not only beneficiaries of constitutional rights, but among their architects.

The right to automatic American citizenship was established in 1898 under the 14th Amendment when [Wong Kim Ark](#), a Chinese cook born in San Francisco, successfully defended his claim to U.S. citizenship after officials argued that his parents' Chinese citizenship disqualified him from it.



American Civil Liberties Union attorney Cecillia Wang spoke outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on April 1, 2026. President Donald Trump attended in person as the court heard a landmark case weighing the constitutionality of his effort to end birthright citizenship. (Mandel NGAN/AFP via Getty Images)

As a constitutional lawyer, Wang has worked many cases at the Supreme Court, but she said this was the first one to hit very close to home: Wang is a recipient of birthright citizenship,

and her personal history made her role at the nation's highest court meaningful for many immigrants and second-generation Americans — especially Asian Americans.

"I can't tell you how many people have told me, both friends and loved ones, but also total strangers: 'I listened to [that argument](#); it's the first time I've ever listened to a Supreme Court argument. My parents, who are immigrants, listened to [it] and they've never listened to [one] before,'" Wang said. "'And we're all cheering you on.'"

Wang said the effort to overturn a centuries-old constitutional right has helped spotlight critical and often overlooked Asian American history, particularly highlighting how the Chinese community's 19th-century legal victories helped secure foundational protections for both Americans and noncitizens. Many constitutional protections are now under attack by the Trump administration.

Birthright citizenship is only one example. Early Chinese immigrants filed more than 10,000 lawsuits to fight discrimination and raised money to hire prominent white lawyers to argue on their behalf. Some cases reached the Supreme Court, and the resulting decisions continue to undergird many modern civil rights cases, including disputes over [equal protection and due process](#).

Efforts to reframe the American story have been fueled by descendants of some of the country's earliest immigrants. They've illuminated little-known chapters of the nation's history by unearthing family archives and sharing personal stories.



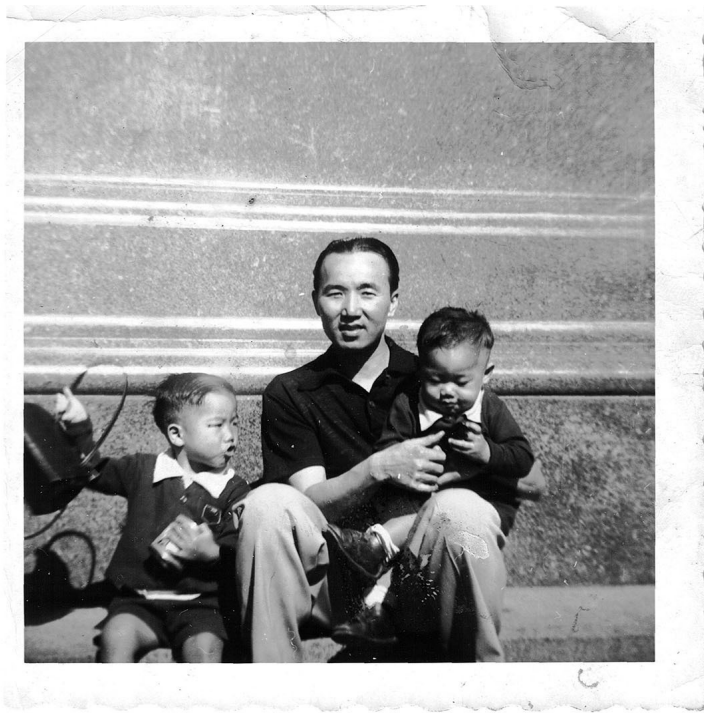
Norman Wong walks through Ross Alley in San Francisco's Chinatown on June 14, 2026. Wong, 76, is the great-grandson of Wong Kim Ark, who won birthright citizenship in 1898 in the Supreme Court. (Juliana Yamada/KQED)

Norman Wong, a Bay Area resident and the great-grandson of Wong Kim Ark, has been on a media blitz since January to share his family's legacy and protect birthright citizenship. He's appeared at public events, been invited to speak on panels and been interviewed by national and local news outlets.

In April, he traveled to Washington, D.C., for birthright citizenship hearings and gave a speech outside of the Supreme Court. It's work that Wong didn't expect to do at this stage of his life, but it's a role and responsibility that he accepts willingly.

"I consider it a duty and a privilege to, in a sense, serve, because these times need people to volunteer and help," Wong, 76, said. "I think especially for Chinese Americans who are afraid of [how] their history might implicate them ... We need to get out from under that rock."

For most of his life, Wong had no idea he was a descendant of Wong Kim Ark. His father, Wong Yook Jim, rarely spoke about his past or their family lineage, let alone who Wong's great-grandfather was. Wong only discovered the connection in his 50s — but he was no stranger to Asian American history.



Left: Wong Yook Jim, grandson of Wong Kim Ark, with his two sons, Gary (left) and Norman Wong (right), during the early 1950s in San Francisco.

Right: Wong Yook Jim during the mid-1950s.

Norman Wong didn't know he was a descendant of Wong Kim Ark until he was in his 50s because his Chinese family never spoke about their family history. He says of his father, "He didn't talk about his mother or his father or any of that ... We didn't even know he actually came from China ... as far as I knew, he could have been born here." (Courtesy of Norman Wong.)

As a UC Berkeley student during the 1970s, Wong was a part of the multiracial [Third World Liberation Front movement](#) in the Bay Area, when widespread student strikes helped establish the country's first ethnic studies programs.

It was during that period that the Asian American identity was first conceived. Wong also protested the demolition of [San Francisco's International Hotel](#) — a landmark event widely

regarded as the catalyst for the Asian American movement.

Wong said his activism as a young man helped prepare him for his current role as a public advocate for immigrants and other vulnerable groups in America. He's not only fiery in his efforts to preserve his great-grandfather's contributions, but also in his critiques of the Trump administration, especially as it prepares to host the nation's 250th-anniversary celebrations.

"I think it's ironic that Trump is our president while we're extolling the virtues of the United States, and he's showing the worst side of America," Wong said. "I think the main story is 'who we should be as a people?' instead of just celebrating that we're Americans."

Russell Jeung, a professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State University, said having people like Wong speak out exemplifies how vital it is to connect history to the present.



Norman Wong stands in front of a mural depicting his great-grandfather, Wong Kim Ark, on the corner of Sacramento and Grant streets in San Francisco's Chinatown on Sunday, June 14, 2026. (Juliana Yamada/KQED)

"It's really significant to share our stories to change the narrative about Asian Americans, to change the narrative of America," Jeung said. "I think digging up and reclaiming our history is critical to helping us face the challenges of what we're dealing with now."

Jeung is a co-founder of [Stop AAPI Hate](#), a movement that started during the COVID era, which has helped reshape the way the country views racism against Asians. But Jeung said Asian American activism isn't new; it's always been a part of the Asian American experience.

“Asians were really unruly when they came. They were engaged in massive disobedience against every law ... They used every means available to their disposal to challenge racist laws,” Jeung said.

One example is the 1886 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, in which [Chinese laundrymen sued San Francisco](#) because of an unfair laundry ordinance — one of many discriminatory laws designed to make life and earning a livelihood difficult for Chinese immigrants. With the help of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the laundrymen won and secured 14th Amendment protections, including equal rights and due process for noncitizens.



People walk through the intersection at Pacific and Stockton streets in San Francisco's Chinatown on June 7, 2026. (Juliana Yamada/KQED)

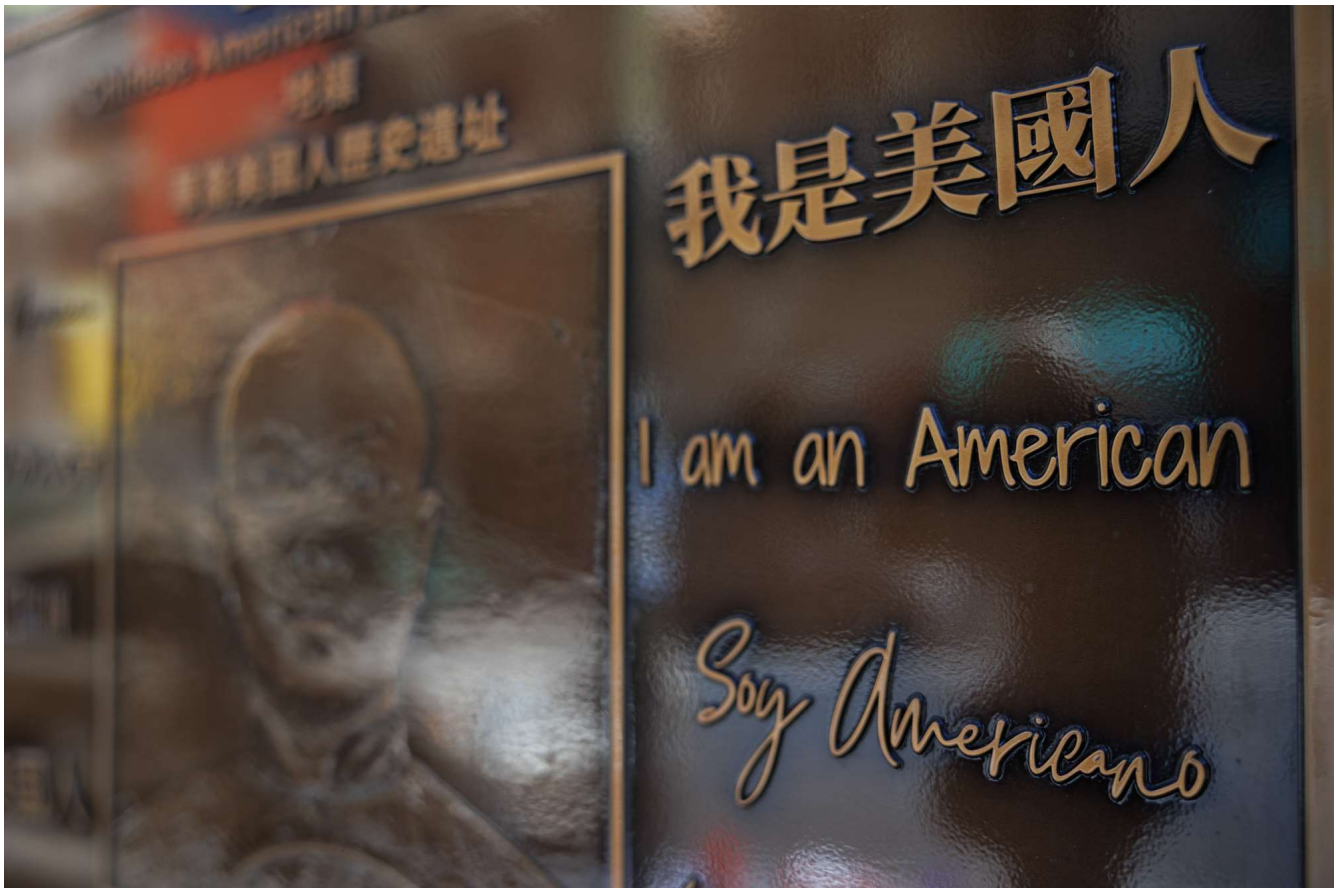
Jeung said that the current debates over constitutional protections and who qualifies for U.S. citizenship are especially relevant to Asian Americans because 19th-century Asians were, in his words, the “foundational aliens” — the group through which the boundaries of American citizenship were drawn and the limits of constitutional rights were tested. The restrictions imposed on Chinese immigrants helped define who could — and could not — be considered American.

“The whole idea of American citizenship and belonging was based on the opposite, the Asian as the paradigmatic alien,” Jeung said. “And so today, the treatment of immigrants is sort of based on how America treated Asians initially as aliens.”

That treatment includes being regarded as economic scapegoats, as threats to national security, ineligible for citizenship despite legal ties, and [being denied due process rights](#) and

subjected to hostile political rhetoric.

But, Jeung said, early Chinese immigrants also created a model of how to seek justice. By organizing across their community and bringing their fights to the courts, they called out the hypocrisy of America and challenged the nation to live up to its espoused values.



"I am an American" in various languages is etched into a plaque honoring Wong Kim Ark in San Francisco's Chinatown on June 7, 2026. (Juliana Yamada/KQED)

"We were supposed to have inalienable rights to the pursuit of happiness ... but aliens didn't get those rights, and the same holds true today. Undocumented people don't have the right to ... due process, habeas corpus; they don't have the right to be innocent until proven guilty," he said.

Because of the parallels between the past and present, Jeung believes the country's upcoming celebrations should raise some critical questions.

"It's a question for America on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Are those rights inalienable, are they sacred to all? Or why do we only hold them for a certain privileged few?"

Aarti Kohli, executive director of the Asian Law Caucus, a legal and civil rights nonprofit in San Francisco, has worked for decades to ensure rights are upheld for some of the most vulnerable groups in the Asian American community. The organization was part of the nationwide class action in *Trump v. Barbara*, and Kohli said this has been a "pivotal moment"

for the Asian Law Caucus, as many constitutional protections beyond birthright citizenship are under threat.

“The ground has really shifted under most civil rights organizations,” Kohli said. “We have to be more strategic, more creative than ever ... we need to build a coalition of supporters ... we can’t just fight in court. We have to win on the streets as well.”

Kohli pointed to the [recent weakening of the Voting Rights Act](#) by the Supreme Court — including decisions limiting the consideration of race in drawing congressional maps — as emblematic of the direction the country is heading towards as it approaches its 250th anniversary.

“[The Trump administration] has revealed to us the vulnerabilities in our democracy,” Kohli said. “The checks and balances of power relied on people acting with integrity ... one of the things that was not contemplated ... is that an administration could act with such impunity and feel very justified in violating not just norms, but the law.”

Because of vulnerabilities in the nation’s democratic institutions, Kohli and other advocates argue that preserving a multiracial democracy will require deeper solidarity across communities and a recognition of the connections between different groups’ struggles for rights and belonging.

For Wang, that broader struggle for rights and belonging stretches beyond the Chinese American experience. That’s why she said there’s another important group of ancestors to acknowledge when discussing birthright citizenship and other constitutional ideals: Black freedom fighters.



An American flag, a San Francisco flag and the Chinese flag fly on Grant Avenue in San Francisco's Chinatown on June 20, 2026. (Juliana Yamada/KQED)

"[They] both achieved the end of slavery, and Reconstruction in the form of civil rights legislation in the 1960s ... we need to connect those efforts," Wang said, noting that the constitutional protections invoked by Chinese immigrants originated from Black Americans' struggle against slavery. Without the [Reconstruction Amendments](#) and the legal framework earned by Black Americans, Chinese litigants wouldn't have been able to test those guarantees in court and secure them for generations of Americans.

While the political climate and the ongoing challenges to constitutional protections may easily overshadow the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary for some, Wang said she still plans to commemorate the milestone.

"I don't want to let the president take away my joy," she said. "I remember the bicentennial; I was a little kid and remember the excitement of it ... there are a lot of people who have a critique of American exceptionalism and those critiques are very valid. But for me personally, I feel so fortunate to be a U.S. citizen. I feel so fortunate to be American. And I think being a civil rights lawyer is a really profound expression of American patriotism."

Wang marvels at the fact that she, a Chinese American lawyer and daughter of immigrants, was able to argue the birthright citizenship case before the Supreme Court at a time when Chinese people like Wong Kim Ark lived in an era when they were barred from testifying in court.



A mural depicting Wong Kim Ark is seen through the Floating Sushi Boat restaurant on the corner of Sacramento and Grant in San Francisco's Chinatown on June 20, 2026. (Juliana Yamada/KQED)

That arc of history is not lost on Norman Wong. It may explain why he's been so tireless in his efforts to share who his great-grandfather was and what he achieved.

When asked what's next for his family's legacy after the Supreme Court issues its ruling, Wong said he hopes there will no longer be a need for such a public role.

"When I'm not needed anymore, I'll just fade away," Wong said. "People shouldn't worry about [birthright citizenship], and all of this will be a footnote."

For now, though, Wong believes there are still countless family stories waiting to be told — if others are willing to share them.

"We shouldn't be ashamed of our personal history. It's time for us to say who we are."

Help Us Document Chinese American History

KQED is launching a reporting series exploring how Chinese immigrants in 19th-century California helped shape the rights and freedoms many Americans enjoy today.

As we tell these stories, [we want to hear from you](#). Do you have family ties to San Francisco Chinatown or the Bay Area's early Chinese American communities? Family photographs, letters, documents or stories passed down through generations? Do you know of local histories, legal battles or community contributions that deserve greater attention?

Reporter Cecilia Lei is collecting stories, memories and historical materials that may inform or be featured in our reporting. Email her at clei@kqed.org and help us preserve and share this history.

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)





Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network



Human Rights and Local Resistance From Criminalization of Civic Spaces to Action

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Thursday, June 4, 2026



A special thank you to *The Overbrook Foundation* for their generous contribution to this event.

Schedule of Events

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Pastries Levy Conference Room (2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)	
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Welcome & Framing Silverman 240B (2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)	Sarah Paoletti University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School Amy Van Zyl- Chavarro Northeastern University School of Law Sarah Dávila A. University of Illinois Chicago Law (Moderator) Uzra Zeya Human Rights First Stephanie Sena Breaking Bread Community Shelter Jennifer Prestholdt The Advocates for Human Rights Desirée Cormier Smith Alliance for Diplomacy and Justice
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Criminalization and Suppression of Civic Spaces and Civic Engagement in the United States Silverman 240B (2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)	
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch Levy Conference Room (2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)	
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Midday Conversation: Local Leadership Perspectives on Defending Human Rights Under Pressure Silverman 240B (2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)	Siya Hegde National Homelessness Law Center (Moderator) Robert Saleem Holbrook Abolitionist Law Center Larry Krasner District Attorney, City of Philadelphia

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Break

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Local Government Perspectives on Human Rights

*Silverman 240B
(2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)*

JoAnn Kamuf Ward

*NYC Commission on Human Rights
and the International Association of
Official Human Rights Agencies
(Moderator)*

Morten Kjaerum

*Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the
Human Rights Cities Alliance*

Robin Toma

*LA County Human Relations
Commission and the International
Association of Official Human Rights
Agencies*

Ahmed Baset

*Illinois Accountability Commission,
Illinois Department of Human Rights*

Rue Landau

Philadelphia City Council, at-Large

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Concluding Remarks

*Silverman 240B
(2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)*

Jamil Dakwar

ACLU Human Rights Program

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Coffee & Snack Break

*Levy Conference Room
(2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)*

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Truth, Justice, & Preservation of Civic Spaces
for Community Engagement: Regional
Perspectives and Advocacy within the Inter-
American Human Rights System**

*(sponsored by the Inter-American Working Group
of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers
Network)*

*Silverman 240B
(2nd Floor, Silverman Hall)*

Delia Addo-Yobo,

*Kennedy Human Rights Center
(Moderator)*

Andrea Pochak

*Inter-American Commission on
Human Right and Rapporteur for
Human Mobility, and for Memory,
Truth and Justice*

Margaret Satterthwaite

United Nations

Sandra Park

*Civil Rights Bureau, New York State
Office of the Attorney General*

Florencia Reggiardo

*Director for Andean Region, North
America and The Caribbean
Program for CEJIL (Centro por la
Justicia y el Derecho Internacional)*

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Reception

*Goat Lounge & Courtyard
(1st Floor, Silverman Hall)*



**Civil Rights
Department**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Community Conflict Resolution Unit



Life Comes From It

Peacemakers Gathering – Los Angeles

June 8, 2026 - The California Endowment

1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles 90012

Agenda, People, and Presentations

California Civil Rights Department Community Conflict Resolution Unit (CCRU)
and Life Comes From It (LCFI) welcome you!

8:00 a.m. Check-in and Light Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Opening Connection

Conversation + Connection

Malka Ranjana Kopell is Co-Founder and CEO of Civity, a national organization building relationships of respect and empathy across divides of race, class, culture and politics.

9:00 a.m. Grounding Our Intentions for the Day

Land Acknowledgment

Mona Recalde, Gabrieleno/Tongva

Blessing for the Day

Allan Hatcher, Cocopah

A Gathering of Peacemakers

Contra Tiempo

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Gratitude

CA Civil Rights Department

Kevin Kish is the Director of the California Civil Rights Department (CRD), which protects residents from unlawful discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing as well as from hate violence and human trafficking.

CRD Dispute Resolution Division (DRD)

Chhaya Malik is DRD Deputy Director and leads a team of attorney mediators working to resolve civil rights complaints filed with CRD and the Community Conflict Resolution Unit (CCRU), which promotes peaceful relations by assisting communities experiencing fear, conflict, or tensions relating to discriminatory practices, hate incidents, or hate crimes that have a community impact.



10:00 a.m. Opening Plenary

Robert Yazzie, Chief Justice Emeritus, Navajo Nation

The Honorable Robert Yazzie served as the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation from 1992 through 2003. He practiced law in the Navajo Nation for 16 years and was a district judge for eight years. He teaches Navajo Law at the Navajo Technical University.

Cheryl D. Fairbanks, Attorney and Member of the Tribal Court of Appeals, Tlingit-Tsimshian

Cheryl Demmert Fairbanks is a practicing attorney and expert on Indian law. She serves as a Justice on the tribal court of appeals. She is the Interim Executive Director of the University of New Mexico Native American Budget and Policy Institute.

Rainey Enjady, Peacemaking Trainer, Mescalero Apache

Rainey Enjady, a proud Mescalero Apache elder woman, has devoted her life to the sacred path of peacemaking. Although she has carried the role of peacemaker within her family and community since youth, she formally embraced this calling in 2019 when she began leading efforts to bring Indigenous peacemaking processes into the Mescalero Tribal Court.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Morning sessions – Grounding and Strategic Opportunities

Peacemaking: Teachings and Wisdom

This session is for deepening the discussion about indigenous principles that guide peacemaking as a fundamental practice to preserve culture and community.

LCFI and its network of peacemakers

Supporting Our Youth: Pathways to Justice

Experienced conflict resolution practitioners, who focus on serving youth, will take participants on a journey of self-introspection and discovery through the use of the tools they use with youth—prayers, songs, circles, medicine wheel, and other activities.

Elissa Barrett and Magdalena Mireles Corzo, Western Justice Center



Naomi Ackerman, founder of ADVOT

Kruti Parekh, Youth Justice Coalition

Tony LoRe and Brian Cuprill, Youth Mentoring

Miguel Rivera, Western Gate Roots and Wings

Current Events and Impacts on Diaspora Communities

This session will examine the impacts of current events, including the impact of messages delivered via digital communications and how technology has been used to protect communities from threats of violence. The Muslim Public Affairs Council's Center for Security, Technology, and Policy will share how data informs policy and local strategic planning.

Maha Elginaidi, Intercultural Networks Group

Rabbi Susan Goldberg, Nefesh

Jeannette Zanipatin, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

Rebecca Husaini, Muslim Public Affairs Council

Healing Arts, Opening Hearts

Writers, poets, and cultural workers will discuss their work and explain how to use the creative process as a path to deeper insights, understanding, and an appreciation for the common humanity among all people. Their work and art demonstrate how narratives, histories, and cultural memory educate and communicate beyond words that too often divide rather than unify.

GusTavo Guerra Vasquez, Poet and Justice Advocate, former CRS conciliator

Luis Rodriguez, Author, playwright, 2014 L.A. Poet Laureate

Rebecca Gomez, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural

Mapping Strategies for Bridging Divides

Research and experience working under conditions that divide people in workplaces, universities, and communities will form the foundation of this session, led by the Divided Community Project (DCP) in collaboration with a former CRS Director, who now leads Not In Our Town, and former CRS regional administrators. Drawing on both scholarship and real-world application, the session will introduce DCP's open-source library of strategic planning tools for institutions and community leaders, along with candid insights into how these tools have



performed in moments of crisis—what has worked, what has not, and why. Participants will also engage in a practical, real-world exercise designed to apply these frameworks to complex, high-stakes scenarios, enriched by the perspectives of seasoned community mediators who have worked on some of the most challenging moments in our civil rights history.

William "Bill" Froehlich, Divided Community Project, Ohio State University, Michael E. Mortiz School of Law

Thomas Battles and Ron Wakabayashi, DCP, Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS) Regional Directors (retired)

Justin Lock, Not in Our Town, Executive Director

12:15 p.m. Lunch Conversation

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) and Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) will share experiences and reflections on community conflict and how their organizations are responding.

1:30 p.m. Transition to Afternoon Sessions

1:45 p.m. Afternoon Sessions – Communities of Practice Sessions, Opportunities for Collaboration and Action Steps

Integrating Peacemaking Across Cultures

Led by members of a peacemaker team that worked to achieve deeper appreciation for stances taken in different tribal disputes in California and other states, participants will share experiences about their successes, how they integrate culture into their practices, and how today's conflicts call upon peacemakers to respond in traditional and innovative ways.

William E. Hall, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR)

Rainey Enjady, Life Comes From It Peacemaker Trainer/Practitioner

Members of Life Comes From It

Community Mediation and Today's Civil Rights Movement

Hosted by the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM) and mediation centers, the discussion will center on civil rights and mediation centers' imperative to help communities mediate their disagreements. After a brief



presentation of mediation case studies involving housing and special education, discrimination, and social justice issues, the session will be devoted to small group discussions to learn from each other and create a supportive, responsive network.

D.G. Mawn, National Association for Community Mediation

Renata Valree, CSU Faculty, Peace in Education, Executive Director

Cynthia Campoy Brophy, Loyola Center for Conflict Resolution, Loyola Law School

Laura Benghal, Director of ADR, The Bar Association of San Francisco Mediation Program

Conflict Without Borders: Mapping the Community Conflict Ecosystem – Local Governments Working Towards Peace

Learn how local governments, advocates, and community organizations work together to identify, organize and prevent escalation of tensions while being prepared to address conflict that disrupts community life. Learn what needs to be built to maintain trust and stability after a conflict has occurred.

Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission staff members Robin Toma, Joshua Parr, Pierre Arreola and facilitatory Dr. Paul Smith

Aziza Hasan, NewGround

Paul Kim, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Oscar Zarate, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

Crossing the Threshold: Reclaiming Rites of Passage for Today's Youth

This interactive workshop explores how rites of passage, initiation, and old wisdom can help youth cross the threshold into adulthood with a greater sense of purpose, belonging, and responsibility. Through reflection and dialogue, participants will experience elements of this approach firsthand while considering their own initiatory journey and what it means to guide the next generation.

Tony LoRe and Brian Cuprill, Youth Mentoring Connection

Miguel Rivera, Western Gate Roots and Wings

Kruti Parekh, Youth Justice Coalition



Who Heals the Healers?

This session will illuminate how individuals and organizations can incorporate healing practices to preserve energy and remain in appreciation for the lessons that come from working to resolve community conflict. Learn how to host spaces designed to compost the harshness of conflicts and how to maintain balance to strengthen capacity to stay engaged in complex, long-term, dynamic conditions.

Brenda Salagado, Nepantla Center for Healing and Renewal

Wendy Sotelo, Corazon Tlalli Healing Circle Host

R. Inez, Inez Healing Arts

Eisha Mason, Black New Thought: Community as Medicine

Mia Lee, Guided Visualization facilitator

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. *Closing Reflections*

Orland Bishop, founder Shadetree Multicultural Foundation, will offer closing reflections on what lies ahead. As a futurist, healer, and community-centered holder of sacred space, he will draw on his extensive study of medicine, naturopathy, and traditions of South and West Africa. He will offer a vision of the future based on his transformative approach to peace-building, blending spiritual wisdom, indigenous knowledge, and contemporary psychology to address societal and individual trauma.

Rey Rodriguez, author and attorney, will read from *Todos Somos Sagrados / All Are Sacred*, a collection of essays and poems dedicated to the women of Dolores Mission in Boyle Heights, whose radical love and commitment to community transformed hardship into hope.

4:00 p.m. *Building Our Community Conflict Practitioner Network*

Please engage with each other, exchange contact information, and meet the CCRU team. And we invite everyone to receive sound meditation with Inez, whose healing work is rooted in traditional indigenous medicine and sacred sounds.

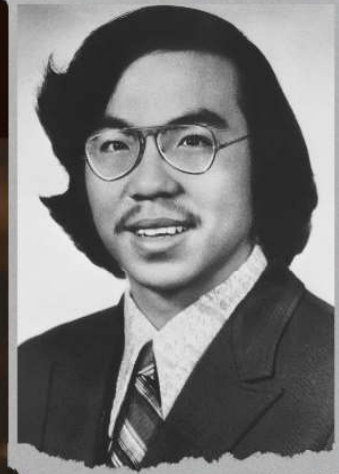
Commemorating Vincent Chin

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Rosemead Community
Recreation Center

3936 Muscatel Ave
Rosemead, CA 91770



With special remarks by
President Frank Wu
Queens College, CUNY

RSVP at:

camla.org/commemoratingvc



CHINESE
AMERICAN
MUSEUM



Museum
of Social
Justice



UCLA Asian American
Studies Center

Commemorating Vincent Chin

Join us for *Commemorating Vincent Chin* on **Tuesday, June 23**, from **7 PM to 8 PM** at the Rosemead Community Recreational Center (3936 Muscatel Ave, Rosemead).

The Chinese American Museum annually dedicates this evening in remembrance of the life and legacy of Vincent Chin, whose senseless murder in 1982 became a pivotal moment that galvanized the Asian American civil rights movement. This commemoration also reflects on the racial inequality and discrimination that continues to persist in today's highly polarized social climate, just as it did decades before.

The evening's program will include special remarks from President Frank Wu from Queens College, CUNY and will conclude with a candlelight vigil in remembrance of Vincent Chin.

Interested attendees can RSVP for free in the link below.

More about the tragic murder of Vincent Chin:

On June 23, 1982, Vincent Chin was violently beaten to death by two white men, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, in a racially motivated attack. The tragedy occurred against the backdrop of economic downturn in the United States. Auto companies laid off many American laborers, who directed their anger and blame towards the Japanese auto industry. Vincent Chin's assailants, Ebens and Nitz, never served jail time and walked free with minimal fines for the senseless murder. The verdict of Chin's murder trial was perceived as a gross miscarriage of justice and highlighted racial inequities within the American legal system. In response, the Asian American

community joined together to mobilize widespread advocacy for justice and underline issues of racial violence and discrimination.

[RSVP Today](#)



For Agenda Item 4.1(i)



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

info@hrc.lacounty.gov

(213) 738-2788

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

June 30, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

[Via Microsoft Teams](#)

or Call In at +1 (213) 204-2512

Phone Conference ID: 831 349 137#

Committee Chair: Commissioner Gay Yuen | **Vice Chair:** Ilan Davidson

Committee Members: Helen Chin, Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Serena Oberstein,
Fredrick Sykes

Staff: Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, Pierre Arreola

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement (2:00)**
- 2. Review & Approval of Minutes (April 28, 2026) (2:02)**
- 3. Discussion: Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update (2:05)**
- 4. Discussion: FWC26 Human Rights Implementation Framework Update (2:35)**
- 5. Discussion: Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team Update (3:05)**
- 6. Public Comment (3:20)**
- 7. Commissioner & Staff Announcements (3:25)**
- 8. Adjournment (3:30)**

Next Meeting Date – July 28, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by virtual conference communication from the following locations: Gay Yuen (517 S. Orange Ave., Apt. E, Monterey Park, 91755); Helen Chin (5844 Bowcroft St., Unit #4, Los Angeles CA 90016); Ilan Davidson (1435 W. 7th St., San Pedro, CA 90732); Jeanette Ellis-Royston (1460 E. Holt Ave., Rm. 6, Pomona, CA 91767); Serena Oberstein (17509 Romar St., Northridge, CA 91325); Fredrick Sykes (3537 Samantha Ave., West Covina, CA 91792). An asterisk () denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item. Meetings are held in English and accessible to persons with disabilities. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission on Human Relations at (213) 738-7288 or info@hrc.lacounty.gov at least 3 business days before the meeting.*



Los Angeles County

Commission on Human Relations

510 S. Vermont Avenue, 15th Floor
 Los Angeles, California 90020
www.hrc.lacounty.gov
 213.738.2788

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conference

PRESENT: Ilan Davidson Fredrick Sykes
 Jeanette Ellis-Royston Serena Zeise-Oberstein

ABSENT: Gay Yuen
 Helen Chin

STAFF: Robin Toma Pierre Arreola
 Robert Sowell

I. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM with a quorum in attendance. Vice Chair Ilan Davidson then read the land acknowledgement.

II. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson invited a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein motioned to approve the minutes of the Human Rights Committee meeting on March 31, 2026, as presented by staff. Commissioner Frederick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Zeise-Oberstein

Seconded: Sykes

Ayes: Davidson, Ellis-Royston, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0

The motion was adopted unanimously.

III. Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team Updates

Staff Pierre Arreola reported on a staffing transition for the Human Rights Monitoring and Advocacy Team and welcomed Staff Joshua Parr and Paul Smith as new members

supporting the team's work. Current team priorities include the World Cup Human Rights Campaign and the Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project, along with other items previously identified in reports to the Committee.

IV. WC26 Human Rights Implementation Framework Update

Staff Pierre Arreola gave a comprehensive update on the efforts to coordinate human rights for the 2026 World Cup. He outlined three main areas: a public information and education campaign, a grievance and remedy reporting system, and strategies for implementing focus areas related to human rights.

A. Public Information and Education Campaign

The campaign is being created in partnership with the LA Host Committee and TaskForce. Its main message emphasizes local rights – “In Los Angeles, your rights are protected.” The campaign will feature a primary graphic and issue-specific assets for six key areas: human trafficking, hate and discrimination, workers’ rights, immigrants’ rights, accessibility, and the rights of unhoused individuals. FIFA has agreed to include Los Angeles-specific human rights messages in its incident reporting signage. This section will feature FIFA’s grievance reporting QR code and a reference to 211 LA County. The campaign graphics are likely to be shown at the Fan Festival at the LA Coliseum, fan zones throughout the County, and other public venues currently being considered, such as Metro, the City of Los Angeles, and LAX.

B. Grievance and Remedy Reporting System

The HR Team is collaborating with 211 LA County to develop a “no-wrong-door” referral pathway for human rights concerns related to the World Cup. Staff is also updating a resource guide for 211 agents to assist in triaging calls that involve human rights concerns. The HR Team is coordinating with 311 and 911 to ensure that non-emergency calls related to human rights concerns are routed properly to 211. Staff also reported that the LA Host Committee would be making their human rights resource page available to the public the day after the Committee meeting and Commissioners were encouraged to access the guide.

C. Human Rights Focus Areas and Implementation Strategies

Safeguarding and Public Education: FIFA has approved a one-minute land acknowledgment to be played before each Los Angeles World Cup match. The LA Host Committee is developing this acknowledgment in collaboration with the Commission team and in partnership with LA City/County Native American Indian Commission. Additionally, they are considering using the acknowledgment at the Fan Festival and, if possible, within fan zones.

Human Trafficking: The team is working with the LA Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, CAST, and other partners to coordinate suitable local remedies and service pathways. Discussions addressed concerns about hotline routing, data sharing, survivor safety, cohesive messaging, and the importance of survivor-centered support.

Accessibility: The team suggested involving local disability commissions, disability advocates, and individuals with lived experience in venue site visits at SoFi Stadium and the LA Coliseum. They also offered language recommendations, such as replacing "walkthrough" with "site visit" and promoting more accessible helpline keywords than "wheelchair."

First Amendment Protected Zones: The team discussed a proposal to establish rights-focused areas around venues that uphold free speech, assembly, and religious practices, aiming to minimize police conflicts or escalation. Staff mentioned that SoFi Stadium and the LA Coliseum have previously utilized demonstration zones, and the team is currently working to understand and shape how these zones will function during the World Cup.

D. Committee Discussion

Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein highlighted the need for subject-matter experts, such as CAST, to be involved in human trafficking planning. She also inquired about the process for compiling resource lists for individuals seeking assistance.

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson inquired if the campaign signage would feature the Commission. Staff clarified that the signage probably would not display the Commission's branding but will likely include LA vs. Hate branding. However, the 211 landing page and the LA Host Committee's resource guide would contain references to the Commission and LA vs. Hate.

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson inquired if the resource guide could be accessible via a link on the Commission website. Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell responded that it is possible to add a homepage banner or a notice directing users to the Host Committee's resource page.

Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston inquired if the Board of Supervisors approved the resource guide and if the needs of each supervisorial district were taken into account. Staff Pierre Arreola clarified that this work is not currently a project directed by the Board and does not need approval from individual supervisors, although staff are consulting with districts that have shown interest.

Commissioner Fredrick Sykes inquired about the timing of campaign launch and location of the LA Host Committee's resource guide. Staff clarified that the guide is available online on the LA Host Committee's website and mentioned that further public communications are anticipated in May/June.

V. Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update

Staff Pierre Arreola reported that the Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project is approximately one month from launch. The project will deploy Election Resource Liaisons (ERLs) across regions in Los Angeles County. Staff reported that approximately 45 ERLs had been identified, with additional candidates still in the queue. The team

acknowledged the challenge of recruiting individuals for multiple long days of service, including 11- and 15-hour days, and noted efforts to increase stipends and provide a strong onboarding experience.

Onboarding sessions are scheduled for May 5 at the Ballot Processing Center in City of Industry, May 8 at Commission headquarters in Koreatown, and May 13 at Maxwell House with the Western Justice Center. The training will be led by Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell and Staff Pierre Arreola. Staff Pierre Arreola outlined a new operations model for the command center. HRC Staff will assist in triaging calls and deploying ERLs when conflicts arise at or near vote centers. This approach aims to enhance coordination, gather both qualitative and quantitative data, and facilitate a more robust lessons-learned report following the June election.

Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell noted that this effort marks a significant increase from the previous election, with roughly twice as many people deployed and increased institutional backing from the Registrar-Recorder. He suggested that this approach could become the new standard for elections in Los Angeles County and described the work as “championing the voice of the governed.”

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

VII. Commissioner Announcements

No announcements from Commissioners.

VIII. Adjournment

Vice Chair Ilan Davidson invited a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston presented a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Ellis-Royston

Seconded: Zeise-Oberstein

Ayes: Davidson, Ellis-Royston, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0

The motion was adopted unanimously. Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Next Meeting Date: May 26, 2026, at 2:00 PM (Tentative)



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

BALLOT

COMMISSION OFFICERS FY 2026-27

As required by Commission Bylaws, Article VI, please find below the complete slate of nominees/candidates for Officers of the Commission, FY 2026-27 term, as finalized at the last Commission meeting on June 8th.

The election will take place at the next regular Commission meeting, Monday, July 6, 2026.

Reminder: as a governmental body, California state law requires that all Commissioners vote in the open, so as to provide the public with transparency as to each commissioner's vote (no secret ballots).

CANDIDATES

(listed by position)

<u>President:</u>	Ilan Davidson	(4 th Supervisorial District)
<u>Vice President/Secretary:</u>	Helen Chin	(2 nd Supervisorial District)
<u>Vice Presidents (3 positions):</u>	Fredrick Sykes	(1 st Supervisorial District)
	Preeti Kulkarni	(3 rd Supervisorial District)
	Jason Moss	(5 th Supervisorial District)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MAY 19, 2026

PRESS CONTACTS:

Media Relations - mediarelations@janm.org - 213.830.5690



JANM Mourns the Passing of Kyoko Nancy Oda



Editors please note: JANM's Pavilion is closed for renovation; programs will continue on the JANM campus and at other locations at janm.org/OnTheGo.

LOS ANGELES, CA - The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) mourns the passing of Kyoko Nancy Oda. She was born to Tatsuo and Yuriko Inouye in the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II. Her father chose her name with the idea that although her birth took place during a chaotic time when their future was unknown, she would bring harmony to her family and the world. Oda grew up in the diverse neighborhood of Boyle Heights and graduated from Garfield High School where she met her future husband, Kay. She earned her BA in East Asian Studies from UCLA and her MA in Education Administration from Cal State LA.

Oda dedicated her life to education in and outside of the classroom. She was a public school teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District and retired as an elementary school principal after thirty-two years. She also served as the president of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center and the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition. Her community organizing and activism ensured that the history of the Japanese American community in Los Angeles was not forgotten. While earning her BA at UCLA, she worked with her father to transcribe the Tule Lake stockade section of his diary into English for a class assignment. The translation was published online by UCLA's Suyama Project and was later published as the book *Tule Lake Stockade Diary*. In 2021, JANM partnered with the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center to present a conversation about the book with Oda, Hiroshi Shimizu, Masumi Izumi, Duncan Williams, David Yoo, and Karen Umemoto. Oda also used her voice to speak up for marginalized and immigrant communities today. In 2025 she spoke at the Nikkei Progressives community press conference denouncing the Administration's immigration policies and at the National Day of Action to Defend History, both of which were held at JANM.

"JANM is profoundly saddened by the passing of Kyoko Oda. Her passion for education; her perseverance in translating, publishing, and sharing her father's story with the world; and her strong leadership inspired future generations to participate in the preservation of their family and cultural history too. We'll always remember her activism and powerful voice. Her dedication to social justice has helped to shape JANM's programming and touched all of us. Our hearts go out to her husband, Kay, their family, and to the community whom she loved and cherished," said Ann Burroughs, JANM President and CEO.

###



HOURS

The JANM Pavilion is closed for renovation.

ADDRESS

100 North Central Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90012