



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

August 25, 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, Joshua Parr, Paul Smith

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement (2:00)**
- 2. Review & Approval of Minutes (June 30, 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 – September 29, 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**

June 30, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conference

PRESENT: Gay Yuen Fredrick Sykes
 Ilan Davidson Serena Zeise-Oberstein
 Jeanette Ellis-Royston Helen Chin

ABSENT: Ilan Davidson

STAFF: Robin Toma Paul Smith
 Robert Sowell Joshua Parr
 Pierre Arreola

I. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

Chair Gay Yuen called the meeting to order at 2:26 PM with a quorum in attendance. The County of Los Angeles land acknowledgement was then read.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gay Yuen invited a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Helen Chin moved to approve the minutes of the Human Rights Committee meeting on April 28, 2026, as presented by staff. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Chin

Seconded: Sykes

Ayes: Yuen, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein

Nays: None

Abstentions: Chin

Vote: 3 – 0 – 1

The motion was adopted.

III. Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update

Staff Pierre Arreola provided an update on the deployment of the June 2026 election and the ongoing development of the Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project. The staff reviewed the Board motion from March 2026 related to preparations for potential election disruptions, as well as subsequent reports from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk identifying the Election Resource Liaison (ERL) program as a critical component of the County's election-protection strategy. Staff also noted that conflict-resolution and de-escalation content had been integrated into training programs for election workers, troubleshooters, coordinators, and vote center leaders beyond the ERL cohort.

Staff Pierre Arreola shared that concerns raised during ERL training about possible detention by federal immigration authorities sparked important conversations with the Registrar-Recorder leadership, County Counsel, and the Board of Supervisors. These discussions led to a County effort to provide legal support for election workers involved in anti-disruption activities, including ERLs. Staff described this as a historic and pioneering commitment by the local government to safeguard election workers. It's also worth noting that LA Public Press reported on the ERL program.

A total of 42 ERLs completed the four-day June deployment, slightly fewer than the initial goal of 50 participants, as some had to withdraw for various reasons. In certain areas, ERLs worked solo teaming up with troubleshooters or coordinators when it wasn't feasible to maintain two-person teams. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes inquired about the staffing plans for the upcoming November election. Staff explained that their estimates ranged from about 60 to 75 ERLs, taking into account regional needs, available funding, and recommendations from the post-election review.

Staff also shared that stipends for ERLs are in process, and a listening session is scheduled for July 8, 2026. Staff are organizing an online survey and an informal in-person wellness gathering to gather feedback from participants, foster stronger relationships within the group, and provide trauma-informed support after the demanding deployment. The insights gained will help shape a report with recommendations on recruitment, training, deployment, and regional coverage for the November 2026 election.

IV. FWC26 Human Rights Implementation Framework Update

Staff Pierre Arreola reported that the Los Angeles County World Cup Human Rights Campaign and Reporting Line launched on June 1, 2026, in partnership with 211 LA, LA vs. Hate, TaskForce, and community AAPI Equity Alliance. The framework consists of three components: public messaging and education, a 24-hour multilingual human rights reporting and care-coordination line built on the 211 system, and human-rights-focused initiatives implemented in coordination with the LA World Cup Host Committee.

A. Human Rights Campaign and Reporting Line

Staff reviewed nine principal focus areas: workers' rights; human trafficking; hate and discrimination; immigrants' rights; accessibility for persons with disabilities, persons with

limited mobility, and persons with limited English proficiency; fair treatment of unhoused individuals; environmental impacts; freedom of assembly, opinion, expression, and the press; and public and personal safety. Staff emphasized that reports falling outside these categories would not be excluded. A dedicated human rights reporting landing page and online reporting form were developed to collect relevant information, identify patterns, connect callers with remedies, and support care coordination.

English- and Spanish-language public service announcements were released, and the campaign received statements of support from all five members of the Board of Supervisors. Staff reported television coverage through Telemundo and KTLA, along with coverage by several local publications. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes noted that the San Gabriel Valley Tribune had published an article regarding the County's free human rights assistance during the World Cup.

B. Stadium Incidents, Free Expression, and Mitigation

Staff discussed reports arising from matches involving Iran at LA Stadium, including alleged harassment, assault, discrimination, restrictions involving flags and political expression, and concerns affecting persons perceived to be Muslim, persons wearing hijabs, and persons displaying Palestinian or Iranian flags. Staff explained that reports had been received through both the 211 human rights reporting line and FIFA's grievance mechanism and that the Commission team had communicated with FIFA, the Host Committee, stadium representatives, local jurisdictions, and community organizations to identify mitigation strategies for subsequent matches.

Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein asked whether the Commission's position supported an individual's right to display a national flag. Staff affirmed the Commission's commitment to freedom of expression while distinguishing that principle from the rules that a private event operator may enforce inside a private venue. Staff stated that the Commission would continue to advocate for rights-conscious and non-punitive responses to political and religious expression and to harms that may continue to be reported after the matches conclude.

C. Continuing Implementation and Legacy Planning

Staff reported that the human rights reporting line would continue through the end of the tournament and for several months afterward until October 31, 2026 to accommodate delayed reports and ongoing care coordination. Information gathered during the planning and tournament periods will be compiled into a lessons-learned report intended to inform future major-event strategies, including the Super Bowl and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Chair Gay Yuen noted that a joint World Cup celebration hosted by El Pueblo Historical Monument and Union Station drew thousands of participants and occurred without significant incidents. Staff also reported that human-rights campaign signage had been displayed around the LA Stadium venue footprint and that the locally produced land

acknowledgement video had been approved for presentation at every World Cup match held at LA Stadium.

V. Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team Update

Staff Joshua Parr reported on the Human Rights Monitoring and Advocacy Team's participation in a California Civil Rights Department peacemakers gathering in downtown Los Angeles. The team designed and facilitated a workshop titled "Conflict Without Borders," bringing together 16 practitioners from across California working in human relations, mediation, community protection, hate prevention, and conflict resolution. The session examined how California can better prepare for emerging community conflicts, including the local effects of international conflicts on diaspora communities, election-related conflict prevention, and human rights planning for major events.

The workshop used brief presentations followed by facilitated breakout scenarios. Participants considered what communities need before, during, and after periods of conflict. The strongest theme was that community resilience depends on relationships, communication systems, trusted messengers, interfaith and intercultural partnerships, and mediation capacity established before a crisis occurs rather than created only in reaction to one. Participants also emphasized that meaningful civic participation depends on competence, credibility, care, and public trust.

Staff Paul Smith reported that organizer Angela Oh provided strong feedback and that participants praised the session's relevance and impact. Staff Pierre Arreola thanked Staff Joshua Parr and Staff Paul Smith and noted discussions with the California Association of Human Relations Organizations to sustain statewide conflict-resolution infrastructure amid possible State budget limitations. Additional convenings were anticipated in Silicon Valley in August and Fresno in December, including a focus on artificial intelligence and conflict resolution.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

VII. Commissioner & Staff Announcements

Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell clarified that the Committee's current remote-meeting practice may continue under the Brown Act, provided remote participants notify staff, list the remote address on the agenda, and post the agenda for public access at that location.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Gay Yuen invited a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes moved to adjourn. Commissioner Serena Zeise-Oberstein seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Sykes

Seconded: Zeise-Oberstein

Ayes: Yuen, Chin, Ellis-Royston, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0

The motion was adopted unanimously. Seeing no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM.

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