



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of September 3, 2019
WDACS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT:	Jarrett Tomás Barrios Ilan Davidson Jeanette Ellis-Royston Porter Gilberg	Sam Liu Guadalupe Montaña Fredrick Sykes Sandra Thomas (By Phone)
ABSENT:	Michael Gi-Hao Cheung Adrian Dove Isabelle Gunning	Derric Johnson Preeti Kulkarni
STAFF:	Robin Toma Robert Sowell GusTavo Guerra-Vasquez	Grace Löwenberg Jaye Winter Marshall Wong

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. with a quorum of 8 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Ellis-Royston to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of August 5, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. President's Report:**
 - 3.1 IAOHRA 2019 Conference in Orlando, August 18-22:** President Barrios invited International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) conference delegates to share their experience. Commissioner Ellis-Royston recounted her opportunity to meet human relations counterparts across several governments, a Civil Rights Heritage bus tour involving Freedom Riders, and an organized visit to Pulse Night Club. Commissioner Montaña enjoyed the conference plenary sessions, however wishes to see future presentations focus more on solutions and question answering. Commissioner Davidson appreciated a session on community partnerships. He was also particularly impressed with meeting the Pulse Night Club owner and her story as a business owner now converting her space into a non-profit memorial and protected place.

Commissioner Davidson also shared there is excitement about bringing IAOHRA's 2020 conference to Los Angeles. He suggests possibly creating youth track to include more youth in the conference and to increase involvement by conducting outreach to college groups and HRC branch youth programs. Ideas about a cultural and historical tour of LA County thus far include the African American Museum, Black Cat, Museum of Tolerance, Japanese American National Museum, Plaza de Cultura y Artes, and West Hollywood HIV Memorial. Moreover, the planning committee is considering proposing to IAOHRA having a five-day conference instead of four-day.

Finally, Mr. Toma shared about his visit to the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Memorial Park house, meeting some of those who advanced the Civil Rights movement with Dr. King, and noted a Department of Housing & Urban Development presentation on curbing HUD sexual harassment by implementing a hotline. He also shared that staff Marshall Wong led a plenary session on Hate Violence across the U.S. and the actions LA County specifically is taking to counteract such. Last, Mr. Toma was re-elected as president of IAOHRA for another two-year term.

4. Executive Director's Report:

4.1 Update on Anti-Hate Campaign and Trans-focused Hiring: Executive Director Robin Toma reported that the Trans-focused bulletin was re-opened and received an additional hundred applications, the application process closing in a mere ten minutes. Human Resources is in the process of evaluating candidates on meeting minimum qualifications and will then proceed to interviews. President Barrios shared the view that the process is problematic with many submitting without being qualified, leading to delay every time the bulletin is closed and then reopened.

Regarding the Anti Hate Campaign, staff will be meeting with Supervisor's staff to update deputies on progress and challenges encountered, including the need to access funds, hire full-time staff, and complete necessary procurements. Without adequate staffing, the Anti Hate Campaign will not be sustainable. Commission staff was asked to prepare a Board motion.

4.2 IAOHRA 2020 in LA: The IAOHRA Board will take a formal vote on the Los Angeles host bid package between now and the next Commission meeting. A final answer may be expected at the October meeting.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Commissioner Fredrick Sykes gave the report in lieu of Committee Chair Gunning who was absent. The committee met last week and confirmed the academic partner research team for the Policing Report, with a start date slated for early September. Once complete, the report will be property of the Commission. Moreover, once finalized the Commission will have input on how to proceed with presenting the report to the Board of Supervisors as well as the public. Finally, the Stakeholder group discussed the new Pasadena Police Chief and his initiative to meet with the public, in public, and thereby strengthen community relations.

5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Committee Chair Davidson reported that event planning is progressing and all awardees are confirmed to attend. He asked that a volunteering commissioner from each district reach out to their respective Supervisor's Chief of Staff to commit a \$1,000 discretionary fund allocation to be awarded to each district's awardee organization as a monetary gift.

5.3 Ad Hoc IAOHRA LA 2020 Conference Committee: Committee Chair Davidson noted that the committee will meet next week to finalize the bid package to host IAOHRA 2020 in LA. Next, the committee will also identify possible community partners as well as any necessary sub-committees.

5.4 Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee: No report.

6. Action/Discussion Items

6.1 Briefing on Hate Crimes in LA County: Marshall Wong, Senior Human Relations Consultant, presented the key findings of the 2018 Annual Hate Crimes Report, as well as methodology, with all information being embargoed until the report's official release and press conference. Grace Löwenberg will forward the press conference invitation to all commissioners. The exact date may shift as Board negotiations continue with hearing room availability and reservations.

6.2 Support for LA County Civilian Oversight of Policing Conference – November 2019

Mr. Toma explained that, last year, the Commission partnered with the LA County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission by helping to fund and support their conference and increase community engagement. The Oversight Commission is now inviting our commission's planning and financial support again for their conference that will take place this year on November 16, at St. Anne's Conference and Event Center. Last year, the Human Relations Commission contributed \$1,000. This year, the Oversight Commission is soliciting assistance from our commission in the amount of \$2,500. As the conference is will cost substantially more, this request is mostly symbolic and will show our good faith support. Further, HRC staff will be leading the action-oriented Next Steps part of the conference to advance engagement and implementation of action steps. The JAF Trust Fund could cover this contribution. President Barrios suggested receiving a presentation and report of the JAF Trust Fund to-date as well as its three-year spending plan, before a formal vote to approve.

It was moved by Commissioner Porter Gilberg and seconded by Commissioner Samuel Liu to table the item to approve \$2,500 dollars from the JAF Trust Fund, pending a JAF Trust Fund financial report. The motion passed with 7 commissioners voting in favor. President Barrios abstained.

6.3 Approval of Bid for Hosting IAOHRA 2020 in LA: Item was tabled.

6.4 IAOHRA Resolutions for Commission's Consideration: Executive Director Toma presented resolutions passed by IAOHRA to the Commission for its review and consideration.

It was moved by President Barrios and seconded by Commissioner Davidson to refer the resolutions for consideration to the Policy & Advocacy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

6.5 Update on the cases of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean: No report.

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

8. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Montano and seconded by Commissioner Sam Liu to adjourn the meeting in memory of Cyril Wade, Commissioner Davidson's Father In-Law. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montañó
Commission Vice President-Secretary