



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California, 90020  
<http://www.lahumanrelations.org>

(213) 738-2788

[PROPOSED] MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Meeting of October 7, 2019  
WDACS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT: Jarrett Tomás Barrios  
Ilan Davidson  
Jeanette Ellis-Royston  
Adrian Dove (By Phone)  
Porter Gilberg  
Isabelle Gunning  
Derric Johnson  
Preeti Kulkarni  
Guadalupe Montaña  
Fredrick Sykes  
Sandra Thomas (By Phone)

ABSENT: Michael Gi-Hao Cheung  
Sam Liu

STAFF: Robin S. Toma  
Robert Sowell  
Jaye Winter

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 11 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Ilan Davidson led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of September 3, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report**
  - 3.1 **Annual Hate Crime Report Press Conference of September 25, 2019:** President Barrios commended the Hate Crime Report release press conference, noting that it was well attended by public officials, media, and the public. Commissioner Ellis-Royston commented that the data and information presented were eye-opening. Commissioner Sykes agreed and also praised the event.
  - 3.2 **Update on the Cases of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean:** President Barrios invited Commissioner Gilberg to provide an update on the cases. He reported that Mr. Ed Buck has been charged at the state and federal levels for furnishing drugs to a third victim who overdosed, with arraignments this week. Buck is currently in custody without bail and may face life imprisonment.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report**

- 4.1 Update on Anti-Hate Crime and Trans-Focus Hiring:** Executive Director Robin Toma noted that the Human Resources Division (HRD), in an effort to expedite the process, will conduct written interviews in the hiring of these positions, instead of recorded interviews as previously planned. The timing for Human Relations Commission (HRC) staff to review the candidates' responses to these interviews is yet to be determined. HRD will be meeting with HRC staff to better explain the process, and for HRC to express the need to quicken the process as much as possible. Some of the challenges in hiring delay is due to competing with WDACS' larger branches, particularly Aging and Workforce Development, who are considerably larger than the relatively smaller sized HRC branch.
- 4.2 Hate Crime Report Follow Up – Board Motion of October 1, 2019:** Following the recent Hate Crime Report press conference and data suggesting the need for reinforcing the County's Human Relations efforts, the Board unanimously approved a motion directing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to assist HRC staff in endeavors to contract with marketing firms for the Anti-Hate Initiative campaign and other needs. Moreover, the motion directs the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CCJCC) to convene a taskforce that focuses on aligning the Sheriff's Department and other policing agencies with current hate crime policies, reporting requirements, and up-to-date training. Finally, it encourages the CEO and the County's legislative representative to support related legislation and advocacy in Sacramento. The Board will receive a 120-day report back.
- 4.3 Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):** The Women & Girls Initiative (WGI) and Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are excited to collaborate with the HRC in strategizing to advance the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In the coming month, staff will meet with the WGI and CSW to plan how to proceed and recommend its adoption, and in November, all three agencies will meet to align. The November meeting will hopefully yield an official recommendation for the HRC to review.

Separately, Mr. Toma added that the UC Irvine law students who presented to the Commission on CEDAW will be invited to participate in the IAOHRA 2020 Conference. The IAOHRA Host Committee and subcommittee will determine the exact program and possibly a relevant panel at a later date.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Commissioner Gunning reported the committee has settled and approved all purchase orders with UCLA, and today reviewed and revised the deliverables timeline along with feedback loops. The report's video components may be previewed at a later meeting. The committee is also continuing its communication with the L.A. County Civilian Oversight Commission regarding their annual conference and HRC's contribution both program- and sponsorship-wise.
- 5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson reminded all that the JAF Awards Ceremony is next Tuesday, encouraging any who have not responded to confirm their attendance as soon as possible. The program and run-of-show timeline are set, with four of the Supervisors expected to be present. President Barrios and Commissioner Gilberg proposed awarding and presenting two special recognitions, one for City of West Hollywood Councilmember Lindsay Horvath and another for Ms. Jasmyne Cannick for their leadership and advocacy in the cases of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean.

It was moved by Commissioner Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni to accept the JAF Committee report, including approving the proposed award recognitions to Councilmember Horvath and Jasmyne Cannick at the JAF Awards this Tuesday. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.3 Ad Hoc IAOHRA LA 2020 Conference Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson reported that LA County has successfully and officially been awarded the 2020 IAOHRA conference host bid. The conference will be hosted at Hotel Indigo in downtown L.A. and committee members are considering an additional day to the conference for those able to attend. Mr. Toma shared that WDACS Acting Director Otto Solorzano has pledged to assist with \$50,000 in funding through the department budget. Commissioners do not need to solicit their supervisors at this moment, and no requests are being made to use JAF Trust Fund monies. Commissioner Davidson will research how many all-gender restrooms exist in the venue, on what floors, and if conversion or re-designating of restroom signage is necessary.

**5.4 Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Committee Chair Montaño reported no updates at this time.

## **6. Action/Discussion Items**

### **6.1 Approval of Bid for Hosting IAOHRA 2020 in LA:**

It was moved by Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni and seconded by Commissioner Ellis-Royston to approve the final IAOHRA 2020 Los Angeles Conference bid (as set forth in this and previous agenda packets). The motion passed unanimously.

**6.2 JAF Trust Account and Spending Plan:** President Barrios noted a mathematical error in the FY 18/19 report's total amount. In lieu of actuals which were not immediately on hand, Mr. Toma did reassure that the current JAF Trust Fund balance stands at \$63,339.04. He explained this Commission's previously approved three-year spend-down plan and clarified that any new revenues are not subject to the same zeroing out. President Barrios highlighted the nature of competing interests between the Commission's fiduciary duty to protect and conserve the JAF funds; the Auditor-Controller's preference and compelling of agency leaders to expend unspent monies; all further complicated by the HRC branch's particular needs and the challenge, historically, of acquiring the CEO's help in securing necessary funding.

**6.3 Support for LA County Civilian Oversight of Policing Conference – November 16, 2019:** In light of the aforementioned, the Commission continued discussion of whether to support the County Civilian Oversight Commission in response to its solicitation for HRC's sponsorship support as it prepares for the annual Policing Conference slated for November 16.

It was moved by Commissioner Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Montaño to approve allocation of \$2,500 from the JAF Trust Fund Policing & Human Relations line item to support and sponsor the LA County Civilian Oversight Commission Policing Conference if WDACS is unable to furnish the funds from its departmental budget. The motion passed unanimously.

**6.4 Commission Committees and Membership:** Item tabled due to time.

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

**8. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Montaña and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montaña  
Commission Vice President-Secretary