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Fesia Davenport

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Edward Yen

Board Executive Officer

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

May 28, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting, June 2, 2025

Our Commission will meet on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.,
at 510 S. Vermont Ave., 15th Floor, room 15K16, Los Angeles.

You may also join meeting **Via Teams Calendar Invitation** [Click here to join the meeting](#). If you are unable to do so, you may Dial: [+1 213-204-2512,,980587174#](tel:+12132042512)
Please Post Agenda in your location.

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 through the bridge, which is located towards the northwest corner of the parking structure, to reach Terrace (T) Level of the building. Call 323-719-9187 when you are in the lobby, (unless you have a key card to enter the elevators going up to the 15th floor). Prior to leaving the facility, please take your ticket to either security desk (Ground Level or Terrace Level) for validation. **Do not park at the 510 South Vermont Avenue 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 join the meeting, please call me at (323) 719-9187 no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, June 2nd.

*Jenita Raksanoh
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

Monday, June 2, 2025 – 12:30-2:00 pm

LA County Vermont Corridor Bldg. - 510 S. Vermont Ave.- LA, CA 90020

15th Floor, Room 15K16

Also via MS Teams Video and Audio Conferencing [213-204 2512,,980587174#](https://laphilms213-2042512980587174#) [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 (12:30)**
- 2. Review & Approval of May 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes***
- 3. President's Report (12:33)**
 - 3.1. Spotlight on a Partner: LA County Youth Commission Director Tiara Summers
 - 3.2. Reflections on the past Birthright Citizenship and upcoming Vincent Chin events
- 4. Executive Director's Report (12:45)**
 - 4.1. Recent HRC responses to hate crimes
 - 4.2. Budget, Admin and Program Updates
 - i May 8th community conference on anti-Black threat of violence
 - ii Anti-Asian hate crime press conference of May 22nd
 - iii Personnel Changes - Jenita Raksanoh
 - iv Budget developments
 - 4.3. Communications Update (PIO Cowser)
- 5. Committee Reports (12:55)**
 - 5.1. Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning)*
 - 5.2. Human Rights Committee (Yuen)
 - 5.3. Strategic Planning Committee (Kulkarni)
 - 5.4. Nominations Committee (Montaño)
- 6. Public Comment (3 minutes per person) (1:05)**
- 7. Action/Discussion Items (1:10)**
 - 7.1. Nominations Committee slate presentation, nominations
 - 7.2. Strategic Plan Follow Up*
 - 7.3. Collaboration with County Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI)
- 8. Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner) (1:55)**
- 9. Adjournment**

* 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: Dandy De Paula, 21815 Pioneer Blvd., Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716; Azusena Favela, 700 S. Flower Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012; Lisa Dabbs, 6528 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA 90601; Kevork Keushkerian, 1115 Valley View Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107; Derric Johnson, 515 S. Figueroa St., CA 90071.

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 May 5, 2025

PRESENT:	Ilan Davidson	Preeti Kulkarni
	Dandy De Paula*	Guadalupe Montaña
	Jeanette Ellis Royston	Fredrick Sykes**
	Isabelle Gunning	Gay Yuen
	Kevork Keushkerian*	
ABSENT:	Helen L. Chin	Azusena Favela
	Michael Cheung	Derric J. Johnson
	Lisa Dabbs	Jason Moss
STAFF:	Tony Cowser	Robin Toma
	Robert Sowell	Siranush Vardanyan
	Jenita Raksanoh	

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** At the request of Commission President Helen Chin who could not attend this meeting, Commission Vice-President/Secretary and commissioner (VP-Sec.) Ilan Davidson served as acting chair and called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. with a quorum in attendance. VP-Sec. Davidson began by reading the L.A. County Land Acknowledgment, which can be found at the following link: [Land Acknowledgment – \(lacounty.gov\)](http://lacounty.gov). He 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 April 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** The proposed minutes of the Commission meeting of April 7, 2025 was presented by VP-Sec. Davidson. A motion to approve was made by

* 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 for inclusion on the posted agenda, and were not in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies, causing them not to be accounted for in quorum and their votes not to count.

Commissioner Gay Yuen and seconded by Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni. The motion passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

3. President's Report

3.1 Spotlight on Partner: Chair Davidson explained that there is no partner to highlight today and moved on to reflect on the recent Strategic Planning session (on April 30th).

3.2 Reflections on our recent Strategic Planning Session: Chair of the Commission's ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, Commissioner Kulkarni, expressed her gratitude to those that contributed to the recent Strategic Planning session. She shared her eagerness about the Commission's plan for the next five years. Commissioner Kulkarni expressed it has been an honor to work with the Commission and staff in serving the needs of Los Angeles County residents. Chair Davidson thanked Commissioner Kulkarni and those who were involved in the work of the strategic planning.

4. Executive Director's Report

4.1 Launch of LA vs Hate Signs of Solidarity on April 19th: Executive Director (ED) Robin Toma shared an update on the recent launch of the new LA vs Hate "Signs of Solidarity" Campaign (conceived in December 2024). He expressed that the first call to action was in the first zone at the Westlake MacArthur Park area. ED Toma reported that this zone (zip code) had the highest number of anti-Latino and anti-immigrant hate crimes and incidents in Los Angeles County for the two most recent years of analyzed data. Another of the eight (8) focus zones was in San Pedro, where Commissioner Davidson and former staff member Ray Regalado helped. ED Toma stated that there are locations where community members can go and pick up signs or posters. Commissioner Montañó shared that it was so nice to announce our campaign with LA City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez whom she knows personally (and in whose district the zone is), and with the community, noting it was a great event.

4.2 CEO Proposed Budget and Other Admin and Program Updates: ED Toma shared that Fesia Davenport presented a budget to the public and the Board and explained the \$4 billion impact to the county budget because of the child abuse cases. Also, county collective bargaining is ongoing which will also potentially affect the budget. Lastly, there are changes that would possibly change the county and state revenues, which will lead to the elimination of some vacant positions but no layoffs.

- i. **Armenian Genocide Remembrance Event and Award of April 19th:** ED Toma briefly shared he attended the Armenian Genocide Remembrance event at the Glendale Public Library, where he received an award from the community organization Truth and Accountability League (TAAL).
- ii. **Tri-County Conference at USC- LA vs Hate- April 26th-** ED Toma also informed Commissioners that he had the opportunity to speak at this major conference at USC's health campus about our hate crimes and hate incidents reports, as well as LA vs Hate's Signs of Solidarity, in an effort to raise awareness.

4.3 Trip to Sacramento on April 28th: ED Toma additionally reported on his recent trip to Sacramento to meet with state legislators and staff to educate them on the record-breaking growth in reported hate crimes in LA County in our most recent annual report, and why the state hate crime data for that year showed a decline (because it reflected only reports to law enforcement agencies, not to community organizations via LA vs Hate).

4.4 Communications Update – Tony Cowser- PIO Cowser presented a recap of the Signs of Solidarity kickoff campaign in Westlake. PIO Cowser showed photos from the event and mentioned the presence of Anabel Martinez, Justice Deputy from the First District (in which the focus zone was). PIO reviewed the media coverage and noted that the coverage was more localized for this initial launch. He explained that there was an excellent opportunity to further this campaign by collaborating with the remaining Supervisorial districts 2, 3, and 5, as localized materials are created in the “Signs of Solidarity” focus areas within those districts. Cowser indicated he would send a link to all the commissioners so they can see the existing SOS creative in both English and Spanish. Lastly, PIO Cowser showed a short video clip from the May Day Parade on May 1 in downtown Los Angeles, where a very large circular LA vs Hate banner was seen in the parade from an aerial view.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning): Chair Gunning reported that during the last committee meeting, the custody deal report was finalized and sent to the Sheriff, and they have not heard back yet. Thus, the meeting this morning was a brainstorming on what they want to bring up and understand more about the inmate welfare fund, what projects the committee might be interested in joining, and enhancing the narrative work.

5.2 Human Rights Committee (Yuen): Commissioner Yuen stated that there is nothing to update since the last report.

5.3 Strategic Planning Committee (Kulkarni): Commissioner Kulkarni expressed her optimism on the productive Strategic Planning retreat. She raised that there are two open items-priorities two and five, which remain to be reviewed later today.

6. Public Comment: (3 minutes per person): None was offered.

7. Action/Discussion Items:

7.1 Nominations Committee business (formation and/or slate presentation): VP Sec. Davidson stated it is time to form the Nominations Committee and is aware that Commissioner Chin is open to continuing for another year as President of the Commission. A chair for the Nominations Committee as well as a representative from each district who is not planning to be considered for vice presidency are needed. Commissioner Montañó stated she will chair unless anybody else wants to; no other commissioner expressed interest. The committee was discussed as follows: Commissioner Gay Yuen representing District 1, Commissioner Azusena Favela representing District 2, Commissioner Montañó representing District 3, Commissioner Dandy De Paula representing District 4, and Commissioner Jason Moss representing District 5. The motion to approve the Nominations Committee as discussed was made by Commissioner Kulkarni and seconded by Commissioner Gunning. The motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Strategic Plan Follow Up: Assistant Executive Director (AED) Robert Sowell shared his screen to show the draft Strategic Plan document and note possible changes. There was a discussion and recommendation to change the 3rd from last bullet point to “building awareness of our programs resources with enhanced marketing, distributing branded materials, and amplified presence on social media.” A motion was made to approve the changes by Commissioner Montañó and seconded by Commissioner Ellis Royston, and was passed unanimously. AED Sowell moved on to Goals 5.1 and 5.2. A motion was made by Commissioner Gunning to approve 5.1 and 5.2 as presented and seconded by

Commissioner Kulkarni. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Kulkarni closed this item by stating that this will now go to stakeholders and the public for comment before finalizing.

7.3 Collaboration with County Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI):

AED Sowell stated that they have been working several months with a contractor from ARDI and a pilot project with the design work. They are now waiting for the consultants to draft proposals. AED Sowell also announced that in September there was a Board motion from District 5 for individuals from the county to come together to discuss how to fill gaps and to make sure that the people of Antelope Valley received equitable service. AED Sowell expressed that our staff took the step to present information on what can be done. The proposal was submitted and is currently awaiting response.

- 8. Commissioner Announcements:** Commissioner Montaña stated the building trust summit work seemed to have ended because of the (federal) Department of Justice. However, she recommended continuing the work to build trust between law enforcement and the transgender community. She is also looking for help on how to manage the team's mental wellness due to trauma.
- 9. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn in memory of the tremendous social justice/youth rights attorney/activist James Bell; and humanitarian His Holiness Pope Francis. Additionally, it was asked that we adjourn in memory of former Commissioner Eleanor Montaña, who was a long-time member (over 30 years) who served as President and also served as President and member of the Sybil Brand Commission on Institutional Inspections. Montaña, who dedicated her life to public service, passed on April 29th. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kulkarni and seconded by Commissioner Montaña. VP Sec. Davidson adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2025

CONTACTS

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LA County Commission on Human Relations Prepares a New Five-Year Strategic Plan

The LA County Commission on Human Relations is crafting a new five-year strategic plan, which will begin this summer and conclude in June 2030.

LOS ANGELES, CA—Today, the LA County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) makes public the draft of its five-year Strategic Plan. At regular intervals, the Commission on Human Relations works with **commissioners, elected representatives, and the public** to review and refresh the strategic plan for its work. The draft plan being made public today will guide the work from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030. The strategic plan includes the commission's mission and vision, core values and guiding principles, and strategic objectives for the next five years.

Components of the strategic plan include the following:

- Strategic Priority 1: Advancing Human Rights
- Strategic Priority 2: Ending Hate
- Strategic Priority 3: Transforming the Justice Ecosystem
- Strategic Priority 4: Training
- Strategic Priority 5: Increasing Awareness and Engagement

Click [here](#) to view LA County's Commission on Human Relations' Strategic Plan Draft.

Participants can review the new strategic plan draft or provide feedback until **Friday, May 30**. For more information, please email us at info@hrc.lacounty.gov.

About the LA County Commission on Human Relations

The [Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations](#) is dedicated to promoting positive human relations in our richly diverse, multicultural county throughout all five Supervisorial Districts. The Commission works to develop programs that proactively address racism, homophobia, religious prejudice, linguistic bias, anti-immigrant sentiment, and other divisive attitudes that can lead to intercultural tension, hate crimes, and related violence.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

2025-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN **DRAFT**

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

OUR MISSION

The Commission on Human Relations champions human rights as the foundation for cultivating healthy relations. We bring people together across boundaries of diverse identities and histories to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace in Los Angeles County.

OUR VISION

We envision a County where...

- Human relations are at their best because fundamental human rights have been met for everyone and all groups, including our most basic human needs for safety, food, clothing, shelter, access, education, health care, free expression, and a voice in governance.
- All people and groups enjoy an equal opportunity to realize our full potential to do good for ourselves and our communities, unrestricted by personal, institutional, or structural prejudice or discrimination, or abuse of power.
- It is the norm to value and draw upon cultural diversity to enrich all aspects of all our lives, and to understand and appreciate individual differences and commonalities as well, so that everyone feels a sense of belonging.
- We enjoy enduring harmony in our intergroup and interpersonal relations, resulting in increased cooperation and collaboration between people, organizations, and institutions.
- Our County government leads and models the highest level of respect for civil liberties, human rights, and the intrinsic dignity of every human being through its policy and budgetary priorities and practices.

OUR CORE VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Justice and Human Rights: We strive for justice for all. We believe the foundation of positive human relations is to treat everyone with respect that affirms the intrinsic dignity of every human being. This includes and requires protecting and fulfilling their fundamental human rights.

Diversity and Inclusion: We respect and celebrate the splendid diversity of human cultures, identities, and expressions. We seek mutual understanding and the full acceptance and inclusion of everyone in the essential aspects of community life.

Understanding and Compassion: We listen intently in order to empathize with others' points of view. We know that when we seek to understand their perspectives, our compassion for all people grows.

Cooperation and Collaboration: We are interdependent. We share power through collective impact because we know that none of us succeeds alone. Together, we are stronger.

Non-violence: We believe in the general principle of non-violence, knowing that violence begets violence. We must continually learn, practice, and teach how to express dissatisfaction, resolve conflicts, and achieve positive change peacefully, with respect for human dignity and without resorting to violence.

Concrete Results and Deliberate Process: We persevere to discover and devise solutions that bring about real change. We know that the process through which change is created is as important as the results. The ends never justify the means. We consciously employ processes that respect and reflect our values.

Capacity Building and Empowerment: We believe that all our work is more effective, meaningful, and long lasting when we emphasize building capacity and empowering communities toward self-determination.

HUMAN RELATIONS WORK

“Human Relations” is the study and promotion of healthy interpersonal and intergroup relationships through both intervention and prevention. Healthy relationships are resilient and collaborative. And they manage conflict in ways that the relationships are strengthened rather than weakened. The fullest possible expression and experience of Human Rights are necessary for healthy intergroup relationships.

Human Relations specialists

- promote understanding and fulfillment of human rights for all;
- work to ensure equitable distribution and use of power;
- help bridge separations between groups so they value their differences and trust one another’s intentions for collaboration to generate genuine equity;
- and elevate the experiences, voices, and empowered engagement of those who are being excluded or have been disadvantaged.

“Human Rights” are foundational, inalienable, indivisible freedoms, protections, and benefits to which all individuals and groups are entitled as human beings. They are based on the equal value of every person.

Key features of Human Relations work are highlighted in our establishing ordinance and include:

- Eliminating prejudice, intolerance, discrimination, inequity, and their effects
- Promoting public health, welfare, and security
- Promoting good will
- Fostering attitudes which lead to civic peace and intergroup understanding
- Promoting equal opportunity and full acceptance of all persons
- Fostering mutual understanding and respect among all population groups
- Identifying and helping resolve human relations problems

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GOALS

Priority 1: Monitoring and Advocating for Human Rights

Human rights are the cornerstone of a just and equitable society. They are foundational freedoms, protections, and benefits to which all individuals and groups are entitled, such as life, liberty, self-determination, and fair process. They are based on the equal dignity and value of every person as a human being. Human rights include civil rights, which are limited to what is guaranteed by our government. Protecting and upholding human rights is essential for cultivating harmonious human relations. And cultivating healthy relations is crucial to securing human rights. It is especially clear at this time in our history that we cannot take human rights for granted. So, we advocate for and work to ensure the full realization of these rights for every individual and all peoples in Los Angeles County. To accomplish this, we will prioritize educating County, city, and community partners about the essence and importance of internationally recognized human rights while implementing impactful initiatives to support their fulfillment. We will align these efforts with the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Priorities. Examples may include County approval of international human rights instruments not yet ratified by the federal government and development and implementation of initiatives to address gaps in fulfilling instruments already in force. Our work focused on this priority will aim to bridge policy and practice, ensuring that Los Angeles County leads in upholding and advancing human rights. By integrating human rights principles into local governance, we will help to build a more just, equitable, and inclusive future for all County constituents.

“Human rights instruments” are documents that describe human rights with principles and practices for protecting them. These documents detail important standards and promote international cooperation. Some of them are treaties, which may be called conventions or covenants, that are legally binding for governments that ratify them.

Goal 1.1

By June 30, 2027, publish an annual “State of Human Rights in LA County” report that evaluates fulfillment of human rights in LA County, with emphasis on the Board of Supervisors’ strategic priorities.

Goal 1.2

By June 30, 2030, provide the Board of Supervisors with actionable recommendations on at least two major policy and/or practice changes that advance the fulfillment of human rights in LA County.

Priority 2: Documenting, Preventing, and Responding to Hate

Both criminal and noncriminal acts of Hate violate LA County's core values of Inclusivity, Compassion, and Equity. They also violate internationally recognized rights for all people to security of person and home, equality without discrimination based on identity or origin, protection from being targeted by efforts to incite hostility, freedom of religious

*We define **Hate** with a capital "H" as "bias-motivated hostility". It can also be identified as "identity-based hate". This distinguishes it from the more familiar understanding of hate as common dislike or animosity regardless of motivation.*

practice, and protection from attacks on honor or reputation. The personal and societal damage that Hate produces is ethically unacceptable. We have documented the substantial incidence and multi-year increase in Hate activity in LA County and have greatly improved prevention and response. Moving forward, we will continue to prevent and respond to Hate by

- monitoring Hate acts;
- rigorously and thoroughly analyzing Hate activity;
- making information about Hate activity publicly accessible online;
- providing safe, reliable ways to report Hate;
- helping those people and communities most affected by Hate with access to needed supportive resources;
- engaging our leadership and communities to understand Hate-motivated hostility;
- sharing research on root causes and effects of Hate in LA County;
- and cultivating solidarity to challenge Hate in any form with collaboration to eliminate it.

Our efforts will include focusing on areas where Hate is happening most with visible signage and organizing coalitions to establish a culture against Hate; continuing to build skills, strength, and intergroup solidarity of our diverse networks of anti-Hate community partners; and increasing participation in LA vs Hate events, such as United Against Hate Week, trainings, and other key initiatives. Engagement of our communities will

include leveraging major sporting events to educate attendees about LA vs Hate and how to report Hate. The aim is to eradicate Hate by

- reducing its normalization,
- producing more accurate reporting,
- giving special attention to address cyberbullying and other forms of online hate,
- empowering communities to report,
- expanding services and support for affected people and communities,
- and building awareness of programs and resources with enhanced marketing, branded materials, and amplified presence on social media.

Goal 2.1

Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2030, expand knowledge about Hate activity in LA County by compiling, analyzing, and reporting annually on both Hate crimes and Hate incidents in LA County.

Goal 2.2

Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2030, engage each year at least 100 groups, organizations, and government units in Hate prevention and response.

Goal 2.3

Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2030, at least 70% of people we serve who have been targeted by Hate and respond to our requests for feedback report that our support helped them address what they experienced.

Priority 3: Fostering Equity and Wellbeing in LA County's Justice Ecosystem

Justice ecosystems are networks of institutions, policies, and practices interacting with social, economic, and environmental factors to shape public safety, crime, and judicial outcomes. Deeply rooted inequities in LA County's justice ecosystem

continue to perpetuate cycles of violence and discrimination as well as legal estrangement in many of our communities.

These conditions are in contrast to LA County's core value of Equity and the Board of

"Legal estrangement" is the deep, oppressive condition that erodes trust of overlooked, excluded communities toward legal institutions. Rooted in historic and comprehensive injustice, it explains feelings of disconnection and alienation that individuals and communities experience from the legal system, law enforcement, and government.

Supervisors' strategic priorities to reduce the use of jails and fight racism in all its dimensions. Fundamental human rights are unprotected when police misconduct, violence, and recidivism can be predicted by race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics. Our Transformative Justice work challenges these conditions by addressing root causes of harm, fostering collective healing and transformation, and developing alternative community safety infrastructures that prioritize wellbeing and harm-reduction. This work includes engaging community stakeholders in shaping policies and practices through the collection and dissemination of narratives that reflect lived experiences. Our intent is to challenge policies and practices that contribute to long-term, persistent, widespread violence and deny people opportunity, resources, and power to design and control safety in their own communities. Our vision is safety and justice that center community-driven, trauma-informed approaches. By enhancing community safety infrastructure, dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, addressing policing inequities, and fostering generational healing from trauma caused by criminal justice inequity, we aim to redefine public safety as a cooperative, community-centered endeavor.

Goal 3.1

By June 30, 2030, achieve transformational system changes that advance justice in LA County's criminal justice ecosystem for each of at least three communities: one affected by poverty, one affected by widespread, persistent policing inequities, and one experiencing one or more other forms of exclusion or injustice.

Goal 3.2

Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2030, engage at least three LA County units, cities, or organizations annually in capacity-building initiatives, community engagement efforts, or the development and implementation of innovative public safety models that redefine safety as a collective community responsibility.

Priority 4: Training to Build the Effectiveness of County and Community Partners

To support fulfillment of the County's values and implementation of the Board's Priorities, we equip other County units as well as community partners with both understanding and skills and foster crucial attitudes for securing human rights and strengthening healthy relations. We design and

deliver training experiences that inspire and empower participants with proven tools to respond to conflict productively, communicate constructively, establish and maintain psychological safety, manage bias, respond to Hate acts, value diversity, reduce the impact of stereotypes, ensure equity in policies and practices, promote mutually supportive intercultural collaboration, and implement equity in organizational culture. Participants are prepared to actively safeguard and advance human rights and strengthen and enhance human relations.

Goal 4.1

Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2030, train a minimum of 1,200 individuals annually to secure human rights and strengthen healthy relations.

Goal 4.2

By June 30, 2030, in collaboration with the Human Rights Monitoring and Advocacy Team, create and begin to deliver training specifically designed to increase understanding of and skill in implementing human rights.

Priority 5: Increasing Awareness and Engagement with Our Work

In order for us to achieve our maximum effectiveness in supporting fulfillment of the County's core values and implementation of the Board's Priorities, current and potential partners need to be thoroughly aware of what we do and what we are capable of. We need to continue enhancing our communications capacities and execution to cultivate widespread, robust awareness of, respect for, and engagement with our unique perspective, technical expertise, and well-developed skills. This will require that we develop an inclusive, multi-brand marketing strategy to build public awareness of all our programs and initiatives. The aim is to appeal to increasingly broader and more diverse audiences. We will rely on emerging technologies to customize messaging for multiple demographics including those grouped by age, race, culture, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, and distinct personality traits and attitudes. We will apply insights from newly acquired marketing analytical tools to create promotional materials and establish sponsorship agreements for collaboration and support. We will increase our reach by building a coalition of corporate and other partners to advance valuing diversity and human rights through training, dialogue, and engagement.

Goal 5.1

By June 30, 2027, establish and maintain at least monthly contact with all Supervisorial District offices to ensure familiarity and engagement with progress of our ongoing work and services as well as new projects we initiate.

Goal 5.2

By June 30, 2030, build and grow a coalition of at least 15 new public figures, celebrities, and organizational and corporate allies of significant reach and impact on LA County (e.g., entertainment and media studios, sports organizations, director/actor/writer/player unions) which are willing and able to support our aims of advancing human rights awareness and implementation in our County, including healthy and positive human relations and inclusive policies.



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

**AGENDA FOR MEETING OF THE
TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

Monday, June 2, 2025 | 10:45AM – 12:15PM

510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
9th Floor, Press Room

[Via Microsoft Teams](#)
Or Call In at +1 (213) 204-2512
Phone Conference ID: 333 921 796#

Chair: Commissioner Isabelle Gunning | **Secretary:** Commissioner Azusena Favela

Members: Commissioners Preeti Kulkarni, Fredrick Sykes, Derric Johnson,
Jeanette Ellis-Royston

Staff: Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, Pierre Arreola, Joshua Parr, Paul Smith

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples (10:45)**
- 2. Review & Approval of May 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes (10:47)**
- 3. Presentation: Transformative Justice Team (10:50)**
 - 3.1. “Echoes of a System” Animated Short Film Premiere**
- 4. Discussion: Sheriff Accountability (11:05)**
 - 4.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives**
- 5. Discussion: Staff & County Updates (11:45)**
 - 5.1. Regional Projects**
- 6. Public Comment (3 Minutes Per Person) (12:00)**
- 7. Action Items (12:05)**
 - 7.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives**
- 8. Commissioner & Staff Announcements (12:10)**
- 9. Adjournment (12:15)**

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by conference telephone communication from the following locations: Azusena Favela, 700 S. Flower Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017; Derric Johnson, 515 S. Figueroa Street, Unit #900, Los Angeles, CA 90071; Preeti Kulkarni, 3419 Federal Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066.

For translation to other languages o para más información en Español, call (213) 738-2788 or email us at PArreola@hrc.lacounty.gov. An asterisk () 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 Human Relations 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.



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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PROPOSED MINUTES TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*Meeting of May 5, 2025
In Person and via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing
510 South Vermont Avenue, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90020*

PRESENT:	Chair Isabelle Gunning Jeanette Ellis-Royston Preeti Kulkarni	Fredrick Sykes*
STAFF:	Pierre Arreola Robert Sowell	Paul Smith

1. **Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples:** Chair Isabelle Gunning called the meeting to order at 10:58 AM, with a quorum in attendance. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes joined the meeting virtually from a previously disclosed, publicly accessible location per Brown Act requirements. Chair Isabelle Gunning then acknowledged that settler colonization has caused intergenerational trauma and the loss of lands and lives to the native cultures who lived here prior to the later waves of migrants who came to what is now called Los Angeles County.
2. **Review & Approval of April 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** At 11:00 AM, Chair Elizabeth Gunning invited a motion to approve the minutes of the Transformative Justice Committee meeting on April 7, 2025, as presented by staff. Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Kulkarni

Seconded: Sykes

Ayes: Ellis-Royston, Gunning, Kulkarni, Sykes

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson, Favela

Vote: 4 - 0

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Discussion: Sheriff Accountability**
 - 3.1. **LA County Custody Facilities Visits:** The Committee discussed opportunities for sharing the report and presentation to the Sheriff's Department and justice-related oversight partners to convey the

overarching objectives. Staff member Pierre Arreola confirmed that outreach to the Sheriff's Department had occurred, accompanied by follow-up emails soliciting a meeting. To date, no response had been received. In preparation for an upcoming meeting, the Committee discussed several important considerations. They deliberated on who should speak on behalf of the Committee, weighing whether commissioners or staff members would be most appropriate to represent their perspective. Additionally, the Committee identified key issues to prioritize for collaborative action. They also proposed structuring the conversation in a way that emphasizes collaboration and maintains a relational tone. Recognizing the importance of fostering cooperation, they agreed to steer clear of framing their involvement as a "watchdog" role. Instead, the Committee plans to present their participation as a supportive effort rather than as oversight, aiming to encourage openness and enhance the effectiveness of their interactions. The group underscored the importance of selecting two to three actionable items for collaboration while referencing the internal report that delineates near- and long-term initiatives.

The Committee reaffirmed three main near-term priorities: undertaking a narrative collection project focused on mental health assistants (MHA's) and the re-entry population; championing collaborative oversight with justice-related oversight bodies; and developing a vision for incorporating a human rights framework into criminal justice work. Each initiative was discussed in detail. The narrative collection aims to gather qualitative data from MHAs, formerly incarcerated individuals, and community organizations to assess gaps in mental health and custodial reentry services. Members stressed the need to strategically use human rights language to avoid alienating the Sheriff's Department. Regarding collaborative oversight, the Committee deliberated on organizing a joint effort among various oversight bodies such as the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and other agencies, including the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC). There was consensus that such coordination could help address existing fragmentation in oversight practices. However, members acknowledged the current challenges facing these entities and agreed to proceed thoughtfully, beginning with meetings with key partners to gauge interest.

4. Discussion: Staff & County Updates

4.1. Strategic Planning – Strategic Priority #3: This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

4.2. Regional Projects: There were no regional projects discussed due to time constraints.

5. Public Comment: There was no public comment at this meeting.

6. Action Items

6.1. LA County Custody Facilities Visits: The Committee will work to finalize discussion points and action items to be presented at an upcoming meeting with the Sheriff's Department. Staff will produce a reference document for the Committee to deliberate possible actions and outcomes related to custody reform efforts. At the next Committee meeting, the Committee will explore the feasibility of coordinating with justice-related County agencies to implement proposed custody reform efforts.

6.2. Strategic Planning – Strategic Priority #3: No action items. Previously discussed in 4.1.

7. Commissioner & Staff Announcements: Staff will present the latest version of the Narrative Collection short film at the June 6 Transformative Justice Committee meeting.

8. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Fredrick Sykes presented a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Sykes

Seconded: Kulkarni

Ayes: Ellis-Royston, Gunning, Kulkarni, Sykes

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson, Favella

Vote: 4 - 0

The motion passed unanimously. Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Azusena Favela

Transformative Justice Committee Secretary