



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Meeting of April 5, 2021

Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT: Jarrett Tomás Barrios
Michael Cheung
Ilan Davidson
Adrian Dove
Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Porter Gilberg
Isabelle Gunning
Derric Johnson
Preeti Kulkarni
Tonya McKenzie
Guadalupe Montaña
Fredrick Sykes
Sandra Thomas

ABSENT: Kathleen Domingo

STAFF: Robin Toma
Grace Löwenberg
Jaye Winter

1. **Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Moment of Silence:** President Guadalupe Montaña called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. with a quorum of 12 commissioners in attendance.
2. **Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni and seconded by Commissioner Sandra Thomas to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of March 1, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report**
 - 3.1. **Special Guest Speaker – Dr. D'Artagnan Scorza, Director of the Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative:** President Guadalupe Montaña introduced Dr. D'Artagnan Scorza, the recently appointed Director of the County's newly created Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) office of the LA County CEO. Dr. Scorza thanked the commission for the invitation to address the agency. He presented a vision for ARDI and HRC collaboration, as well as an overview of the LifeCourse framework informing the County's new initiative. Included were an analysis of structural racism and the many manifestations of institutional inequity, along with an explanation of the planning process and intent to use data-based "index of life outcomes" to gauge the County's success and to inform future solutions.
 - 3.2. **Press Conference of Coalition of Civil Rights Leaders Against Anti-API Hate:** President Montaña shared her impressions of participating in two recent and related press conferences with Supervisors Solis and Mitchell, one by the Commission with hate victims, and another with a multiracial and multi-cultural coalition of civil rights leaders speaking against anti-API hate, one being in-person and one

virtual, noting that it was an honor and a moving experience to be among several of her human rights heroes. Commissioners Isabelle Gunning, Fredrick Sykes, and others also praised the event. She thanked those involved.

3.3. Meeting on Report to the Board on CEDAW: She reported that HRC meetings with the County's Women and Girls Initiative and the County Commission for Women continue regarding the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to formulate and determine the exact language to be incorporated into the County code.

3.4. Appreciation for Departing Commissioners Jarrett Barrios and Sam Liu: President Montaña commended for his service and bade formal farewell to Commissioner Jarrett Barrios, who was recently appointed to the Covered California state board. Commissioners joined to express their personal appreciation for him and his service on the Commission.

4. Executive Director's Report

4.1. Meet the Staff –Alexandra Ferguson: Ms. Ferguson Valdez, Executive Director of the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission (NAIC), which is part of WDACS' Human Relations Branch, was unable to attend. Item tabled.

4.2. Press Conference on Call for Unity Against Hate Violence: Mr. Toma reported that the recent press conferences calling for unity against hate violence received good coverage by news media. He highlighted that it was encouraging to receive the support of Board chair Solis, and to hear much discussion among leaders and stakeholders there about supporting and organizing future coordinated efforts.

4.3. Office Move and Place in County Structure: Mr. Toma explained that next fiscal year 2021-2022, WDACS will begin, administratively, the process of splitting into a department on aging, and another on economic and workforce development. Simultaneously, an assessment will occur with respect to where the department's current commissions are to be placed, which include HRC as well as NAIC. The commission's position is clear, and the Board and CEO are aware of its preference to become a standalone agency as before in its history.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning provided the update that the committee is in the midst of discussion about formally supporting a local, non-profit community organization, My Tribe Rise, active in the Pasadena and Altadena area. The organization works to intervene in the retaliatory process following hostile incidents, and is interested in applying for grant money. My Tribe Rise requested HRC's endorsement in their letter and application to the Board of Supervisors. However, the committee's assessment is that the organization must first build up its capacity to manage such grant amounts before formally affixing our agency's name in support of the organization. Therefore, the committee is not prepared at this moment to move forward in the endorsement, but discussions about how to go about building their capacity and supporting their mission, which is aligned with HRC's mission, are ongoing.

5.2. John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Committee Chair Ilan Davidson gave the update that the JAF Awards event will now be a virtual one, likely slated for May 27th. The event program will run 75-90 minutes with many portions recorded in advance. Importantly, and following multiple delays to the event as a result of the pandemic and with event's original primary staff leads now on sudden

medical related leave, branch leadership will soon decide on and assign alternate staff leads to head the planning.

5.3. Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning: Committee Chair Preeti Kulkarni shared that the committee is moving forward in its method for identifying third-party entities to provide a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) assessment in its formulation of the HRC's next, recommended strategic plan. The committee is assigning and requesting that all commissioners conduct informational meetings with relevant organizations and to report their feedback for the committee's members to consider and select a partner. Commissioners are asked to email the committee chair as well as Mr. Toma, as well as to feel free to suggest alternative groups.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1. Formation of Nominations Committee: Commissioners discussed and deliberated membership formation of the annual Nominations Committee that will determine the Commission's officer leadership recommended slate for the 2022-2023 year. President Montaña and Secretary/VP Davidson expressed their interest in serving another term. Importantly, Montaña will consult with Commissioners Cheung and Domingo, who were absent, regarding who is to represent District 5 in the committee.

It was moved by Davidson and seconded by Kulkarni to form the Nominations Committee comprising Commissioners Jeanette Ellis-Royston (District 1), Adrian Dove (District 2), Isabelle Gunning (District 3), and Porter Gilberg (District 4). With Commissioner Michael Cheung or Kathleen Domingo representing District 5 to be determined following the president's consultation with each. The motion carried unanimously.

7.2. Commission Strategic Planning – Process, Timeline, and Environmental Scan and SWOT Input: See 5.3 above. No further discussion and no action items.

7.3. JAF Awards Event: Without objection, the item was tabled.

7.4. Support for District Attorney George Gascon: Hate Crime Enhancements: Without objection, the item was tabled.

7.5. LA vs. Hate Update – West Covina, El Monte, and Anti-Asian Hate Incidents: Without objection, the item was tabled.

8. Commissioner Comments/Announcements: None.

9. Adjournment: Without unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m. in memory of Julia Bogani, Tongva elder and leader.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary