



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION  
VIRTUAL MEETING**  
<https://youthcommission.lacounty.gov/>

**Thursday, October 20, 2022**

**6:00 PM**



AUDIO FOR ENTIRE MEETING. (22-3963)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. (22-3780)

**Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and County Staff conducted Roll Call.**

Present: Chair Amanda Hernandez, Vice Chair Ezekiel Nishiyama, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young. Commissioner Jacob Jackson and Vice Chair Myriah Smiley joined after roll call.

2. Approval of minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2022. (22-3782)

**On motion of Commissioner Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2022 were approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 8 - Vice Chair Ezekiel Nishiyama, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Abstentions:** 1 - Chair Amanda Hernandez

**Absent:** 2 - Vice Chair Myriah Smiley and Commissioner Jacob Jackson

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

**3. Chair's Report. (22-3783)  
Chair Amanda Hernandez reported the following:**

- **Commenced with remembrances of Commissioner Alex Furtado and his sudden passing. She spoke about his contributions to the Commission and his commitment to youth in foster care, those incarcerated, and un-housed Transition Age Youth.**
- **The Chair's Report will be renamed to Leadership Report and going forward will be led by a member of the Leadership Team. This will be an opportunity to highlight contributions made by all Commissioners and the hard work being done to ensure all priorities are aligned.**
- **Introduced two new Interns, Elisabeth Bogaard and Lamar Jones and asked Commissioners to give them a warm welcome.**

**4. Acting Executive Director's Report. (22-3784)**

**Dr. Erica Reynoso, Interim Executive Director, reported the following;**

- **Spoke on the passing of Commissioner Furtado and thanked all those who have supported the Commission during this difficult time.**
- **The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) will provide a report in response to the Commission's findings during their site visits to Juvenile Halls and Camps. The Department of Probation is also scheduled to return.**
- **Engagement with Law Enforcement agencies is being discussed and an update will be provided.**
- **The Department of Youth Development has a new liaison, Alexia Cina. Alexia is looking forward to partnering with the Commission.**

## **III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

**5. Remembrance of Commissioner Alex Furtado and discussion and possible action relating to the feasibility of naming a housing facility in honor of Commissioner Furtado. (22-3837)**

Chair Hernandez opened discussion on this item and shared a few words about Commissioner Alex Furtado's advocacy in his community and his drive in helping un-housed youth. He was also a strong advocate for the Guaranteed Income Program and worked with various agencies including the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and California Youth Connection.

Chair Hernandez called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Commissioner Furtado.

Various Commissioners and Staff provided comments and remembrances of Commissioner Furtado and his exceptional work in the community.

Chair Hernandez introduced Elise Weinberg, Assistant Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Hilda N. Solis, to lead the discussion on how Commissioner Furtado can be honored for his work. Ms. Weinberg stated that there are two possible housing projects in the First District through *Project Home Key* through the organization *Room and Board*. One is in Boyle Heights which will house 40 Transition Age Youth, the other is in East Hollywood. She encouraged Commissioners to visit the facility in Boyle Heights.

Discussion ensued and the following suggestions were made:

- Any facility named after Commissioner Furtado, must align with his community leadership, his individualism, and youth advocacy; the legacy must remain true to who he was.
- Ensure that his history and passion is at the forefront
- Consider naming a program that is aligned with his work
- Add transportation safety as a focus of the Commission to highlight Commissioner Furtado's advocacy.

Members of the public, Kate of the California Youth Connection, Alain Datcher, and La Mikia Castillo addressed the Commission.

On motion of Commissioner Ortega Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, duly carried by the following vote, the Youth Commission approved the suggestions for honoring Commissioner Alex Furtado.

**Ayes:** 10 - Chair Amanda Hernandez, Vice Chair Ezekiel Nishiyama, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Myriah Smiley

6. Discuss and approve a letter written by the Youth Commission to the Board of Supervisors outlining administrative support for the Commission and operational concerns. (22-3838)

**Chair Hernandez introduced this item and presented the draft letter for discussion. During discussion the following points were made:**

- **The goal is to continue to work toward a youth-centered approach throughout the County with all the resources needed to be successful.**
- **It is important to memorialize the Commission's concerns in writing.**
- **Inadequate and temporary staffing needs to be appropriately addressed.**
- **Amend the letter to request a response from the Board of Supervisors by specific date.**
- **Conduct strategic hiring for the Executive Director and staff so that there is limited turnover.**
- **Create a toolkit for the new Executive Director that outlines the best approach on how the County agencies can work with the Youth Commission.**

**Maral Karaccusian, Children and Human Services Deputy, Supervisor Janice Hahn, addressed the Commission and informed that the recent budget approved on October 4, 2022, included permanent staffing positions for the Commission.**

**Lorayne Lingat, Deputy Executive Officer, Executive Office/Clerk of the Board, provided an update on the staffing positions. She reported recruitment is underway a second round of interviews are being conducted for the Executive Director position.**

**In addition, objectives and a training curriculum with action plans for the Youth are being developed.**

DRAFT

Members of the public Tiffany Boyd, Commissioner, Commission for Children and Families, and Yahniie Bridges addressed the Commission.

On motion of Commissioner Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Youth Commission approved adoption and dissemination of the letter to the Board of Supervisors, as amended, to request a report back within 90 days, and to add the Chief Executive Officer to the letter. The motion was duly carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** 11 - Chair Amanda Hernandez, Vice Chair Ezekiel Nishiyama, Vice Chair Myriah Smiley, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. UPDATES**

7. Operations Committee update by Angela Young, Chair, Operations Committee. (22-3817)

**Commissioner Angela Young, Operations Committee Chair reported the following:**

- **Met with Commission Services to gain clarity on recruitment and retention and stressed the importance of recruiting new Commissioners to fill vacancies.**
- **The Team is working with Board Deputies on recruitment and also developing a Job Bulletin and fact sheet.**
- **There is a need to create an ongoing database of candidates for the purpose of future recruitment.**
- **Shared the process for term renewal and indicated that the Board is working on the process of filling Board appointed vacancies. All the recruitment tools are being reviewed.**

**The next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**

DRAFT

8. Youth Engagement Committee update by La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee. (22-3818)

**Commissioner LaToya Cooper, Youth Engagement Committee Chair, reported the following:**

- **The Resource Fair held September 17, 2022, was a success with approximately 80 people in attendance, including representatives from Community-Based Organizations and County partners.**
- **The website has been updated and Commissioners were encouraged to review and provide feedback.**
- **The next Listening Session will be held in the Second District on Saturday, November 19, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
- **Everyone is encouraged to invite youth in their districts to attend the Listening Session.**

**The next Youth Engagement Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**

9. Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming update by Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr. (22-3815)

**Commissioner Ricardo Ortega-Martinez, Jr., Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming Chair, reported the following:**

- **The Committee is working with Dr. Wendy Smith on various indicators.**
- **Commissioner Nishiyama will serve as Co-Chair.**
- **They are working with the consultant on setting the next meeting date.**
- **Referenced the recent incident involving L.A. City Council members and encouraged Commissioners to present themselves in a manner that demonstrates appropriate values, integrity and respect.**

**Members of the public, Kate of the California Youth Connection and Juan De Los Santos addressed the Commission.**

#### **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

10. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (22-3821)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

11. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (22-3819)
- **Delete the Divide, an initiative that supports system-impacted youth.**
  - **Election of Officers.**
  - **Discussion on the development of an initiative to encourage youth engagement in the voting process.**

12. Closing remarks and Adjournment. (22-3823)

**Commissioner Ortega-Martinez, Jr. encouraged County staff to remain flexible, when communicating legal or administrative advice and asked for patience and a willingness to compromise.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**

**On motion of Commissioner Ortega-Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Young, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.**