



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Commission Meeting of May 6, 2019 CSS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

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

**Not counted for quorum purposes*

ABSENT: Porter Gilberg Samuel Liu

STAFF: Robert Sowell Jaye Winter
Grace Löwenberg

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. A quorum of the Commission was reached with 10 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Isabelle Gunning, and seconded by Commissioner Derric Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of April 1, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report:**
 - 3.1 **Spotlight on Staff - Gustavo Partida:** President Barrios introduced Human Relations staff member Gustavo Partida. Mr. Partida shared a brief biography and civil service record. He currently helps coordinate the Dispute Resolution Program, is a constituent contact liaison, and manages data for the Commission's Hate Crime Report.

President Barrios also introduced newly appointed Commissioner Jeannette Ellis Royston, representing the First District. Commissioner Ellis Royston too shared a brief biography,

noting her background as a former high school teacher at Pomona Unified School District, and as a community organizer.

4. Executive Director's Report:

- 4.1 Update on Anti Hate Campaign and Hiring Trans Focused Position:** Mr. Robin Toma was absent due to illness. Mr. Robert Sowell presented in his place, announcing that by the start of July there will be two newly hired Human Relations positions.
- 4.2 Transgender and Non-Binary Youth Conference of April 5, 2019:** Mr. Sowell recounted the success of the County's first ever Transgender and Non-Binary Youth Conference, held in Santa Monica, and commending staff Tisha Boyd. He reported the event was well received by the youth, the adults in attendance, and service providers alike. Robert will send Commissioner Ellis Royston related materials for sharing and distribution.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Committee Chair Gunning reported that the formal hearings are complete, though work continues with the oversight groups, policing agencies, and community stakeholders to gather final feedback and recommendations on the hearings process. Those conversations will likely conclude by the end of June. After that, the selected academic partners will generate the draft and final reports, followed by an additional video component. The committee is hoping that UCLA School of Law will continue as the project's final academic partner.
- 5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** This item was combined with item 6.3. Chair Davidson reported not many nominations were received this year from commissioners, most being staff submissions. Every district does have at least one nominee, the exception being the Fourth District with three nominees. The committee meeting that was planned did not convene due to lack of quorum, however. Thus, no formal slate was presented. In the interest of time and event planning, therefore, Commissioner Davidson met individually with the lead HRC staff to review the nominations. Given the event is scheduled for October and that the Board wishes to approve the nominees this month, Commissioner Davidson summarized briefly every nominee and shared his recommendations based on the demography of nominations along with the organizations' accomplishments.

The Commission agreed to refer the item back to committee where committee members will decide the Fourth District nominee, and then apprise the full Commission of that decision. The committee was also authorized to solicit the Board's approval immediately thereafter. Commissioner Kulkarni encouraged all to continue considering other possible nominees should need arise.

- 5.3 IAOHRA 2020 Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson reported that the host city bid package has been submitted to IAOHRA for approval, which includes three local hotel recommendations. The committee also produced a draft conference outline and timeline which includes a day of travel around the county, with speakers being located at various sites across the county. Next, meetings will begin focusing on programming. The committee will also

assess the pros and cons of rolling conference expenses into the commission budget, or alternatively receiving discretionary funding. Committee members will also discuss strategy to solicit Board support and will apprise the Commission if it is awarded the IAOHRA bid.

- 5.4 **Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Committee Chair Montaña reported that the committee is recommending that the Commission become a standalone agency. The proposal letter will be reviewed by Executive Director Robin Toma, then referred back to committee, and finally to the full Commission for discussion and final approval before being distributed to the Board. President Barrios suggested setting aside thirty-minutes for this item's discussion at the June meeting. Commissioner Montaña was optimistic that the proposal letter will be ready by then.

6. **Action/Discussion Items**

- 6.1 **Update on the Issue of the Deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean:** No report.
- 6.2 **Changes in Departmental Organization – Human Relations Commission:** Commissioner Sykes presented the Nominations Committee's slate recommendation. The committee recommends Commissioners Barrios for president, Montaña for vice president/secretary, Dove for vice president District 2, Davidson for vice president District 4, and Thomas for vice president District 5. The commissioners discussed.

It was moved by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni to nominate Commissioners Jarrett Barrios for president, Guadalupe Montaña for vice president/secretary, Derric Johnson for vice president District 2, and Sandra Thomas for vice president District 5. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Sykes and seconded by Commissioner Gunning to nominate Commissioner Porter Gilberg for vice president District 4. The motion passed with 9 in favor and Commissioner Dove voting against.

It was moved by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Gunning to advance the aforementioned slate to final ballot for the June meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.3 **John Anson Ford Nominees:** See item 5.2.
- 6.4 **CEDAW Implementation in LA County – David Kaye, Mary Hansel:** UC Irvine Law School professors David Kaye and Mary Hansel introduced two graduate students to present on "LA County Implementation of CEDAW" (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women). The students are working with International Justice Clinic to implement CEDAW in local jurisdictions in order to improve women's rights. They shared a history of the international treaty CEDAW from inception, to attempts to ratify CEDAW in the Senate. Local governments are now taking the initiative and implementing their own related ordinances for rights and protections using international human rights language. The group aims to present to the Women & Girls Initiative next, and eventually the Board.

Commissioner Davidson suggested having a CEDAW workshop session at the IAOHRA 2020 conference.

Commissioner Montaña wishes to further refer the item to the Policy & Advocacy Committee to draft a support recommendation. She and Robin will continue communication with the group.

It was moved by Commissioner Montaña and seconded by President Barrios to refer the item to Policy & Advocacy Committee to draft a support recommendation to the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.5 **Census Partnership:** Without objection, the item was tabled until the June 3rd Commission meeting due to time constraints.
- 6.6 **Paramount High School – Latinx/Black Tension:** Without objection, the item was tabled until the June 3rd Commission meeting due to time constraints.
- 6.7 **Whether Homeless Should be Included in the Hate Crime Laws:** Without objection, the item was tabled until the June 3rd Commission meeting due to time constraints.
7. **Commissioners' Comments/Announcements:** No announcements.
8. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the meeting in memory of Commissioner Johnson's mother, Yvonne Thomas, human rights activist Gary Stewart, Imam Amir Uman, and the Poway synagogue victims. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montaña
Commission Vice President-Secretary