



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of February 3, 2020
WDACS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT:	Jarrett Tomás Barrios Ilan Davidson Jeanette Ellis-Royston Porter Gilberg Isabelle Gunning	Derric Johnson Preeti Kulkarni Sam Liu Guadalupe Montaña Fredrick Sykes
ABSENT:	Adrian Dove Michael Gi-Hao Cheung	Sandra Thomas
STAFF:	Robin S. Toma Robert Sowell	Theresa Villa-McDowell Jaye Winter

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with a quorum of 10 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Sam Liu led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston and seconded by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of January 6, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. President's Report:** President Barrios invited Commissioner Ilan Davidson to share regarding his recent recognition by the Board. At its regular meeting, the Board honored Davidson for 25 years of service as the Cantor at Temple Beth El in San Pedro. Commissioners joined in congratulating him.
- 4. Executive Director's Report:**
 - 4.1 Report on SPLC National Convening on Hate & Extremism – January 10 & 11:** Executive Director Robin Toma shared that in January, the Human Relations branch was invited to participate in a special national Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) conference on hate and extremism. The commission and branch were represented by Terri Villa-McDowell, who presented at the convening on LA County's Anti Hate Initiative which is creating the first governmental system we know of to report, track, and offer services in all cases of hate-motivated hostility, not just hate crime. Terri reported that the county's model and system generated much excitement among attendees, demonstrating a robust and innovative approach. Nationally, there has been no such model yet to exist..

- 4.2 LA For Good (ADL) Empowering Communities to Overcome Hate Event – February 19:** Mr. Toma also directed commissioners to a flyer in the agenda packet for an Anti Defamation League (ADL) LA For Good Initiative event being held at LA City Hall on February 19. The program is entitled, “Empowering Communities to Overcome Hate,” and is the result of the ADL bringing various communities together to address trends in anti-Semitism as well as hate crimes. Mr. Toma was asked to participate in the panel and sharing strategies in response to hate and volunteer opportunities.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning reported that the policing report academic partners continue working to incorporate the ideas the committee wishes to see reflected in the report. The release timeline has shifted slightly, with a target date of March 6 for the report to be shared with all commissioners. Hopefully providing sufficient time before the April 6 commission meeting for a final vote to approve it. A draft of the report will also be shared with the Board offices’ Justice deputies, as information, at a meeting of the Justice cluster. Mr. Toma will notify WDACS leadership of this intent to present before the cluster. Once there, it is of import to emphasize that the commission’s policing report is voicing the concern of the community with regard to law enforcement—and is not the commission’s view in isolation. At the same time, the report is being sufficiently refined to reflect the voice of the Human Relations Commission, with a Human Relations “lens.” Following the cluster, the individual Board offices may also be offered each a meeting to discuss further and share feedback. Barrios recommended that commission’s April 6 agenda be largely dedicated to discussion of the report.
- 5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson relayed that following conversation with staff lead Ray Regalado, the committee will next deliberate possibly adjusting the event date due to the two-month proximity between the normal JAF Awards date and the 2020 IAOHRA Conference. The concern primarily being that of staff workload in light of the Human Relations branch continuing to be acutely understaffed. Other considerations for the meeting will include whether to hold the awards as an evening event, whether to monetize it, possible alternative venues, and gauging Supervisors’ availabilities.
- 5.3 Ad Hoc IAOHRA LA 2020 Conference Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson referred to Mr. Toma for the report, who shared that the contract for the conference with Hotel Indigo is successfully signed. The IAOHRA committee is meeting regularly to identify keynote speakers, and to develop program ideas (e.g., a Fair Housing track and a Youth track) and activities (e.g., a civil rights luncheon, a press night, etc.). Other major subjects may include sessions on Policing & Human Relations, Hate Crimes, and so on. Separately, securing sponsors and growing the host committee are urgent needs. The sponsorship deck is complete, and commissioners may begin assisting with sharing the sponsorship packet with interested corporate sponsors. Liu advised that some sponsors, for example Snapchat, may wish to learn more about the tracks being offered at the conference. Thus, making the sponsorship packet available to all commissioners as soon as possible will be beneficial.
- 5.4 Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Committee Chair Guadalupe Montañño noted the committee successfully incorporated the amendments proposed at the previous commission meeting into the recommendation for HRC’s place in the County government structure in light of the possible forthcoming restructuring of the WDACS department (item 6.3). Among the revisions were striking language relating to the Native American/Indian Commission (NAIC) and clarifying the commission’s proposed reporting structure to CEO and the Board. Staff is to convert the committee’s Proposed Commission Motion

(version 5) into a recommendation in letter format intended for the Board. The letter, once finalized, will be signed by the full commission.

6. Action/Discussion Items

6.1 Anti-Hate Initiative – Building a Rapid-Response-to-Hate Collaborative: Ms. Theresa Villa-McDowell, Senior Human Relations Consultant dedicated to the Anti Hate program, was invited to introduce herself. She shared her background of over ten years in educational advocacy. She and Mr. Toma explained the still embryonic stage of the Anti Hate Initiative and the County’s overall capacity to prevent as well as respond to hate incidents rapidly. The program’s infrastructure remains without a long-term sustainable funding mechanism, particularly with regard to funding community responder partnerships. Recently, DMH allotted dedicated funds to each Board office for the purpose of supporting, specifically, prevention of violence and early intervention. Branch staff developed a proposal that was originally intended for DMH—though now for each Board office given DMH’s allocation—to support said efforts. The proposal solicits just over \$2 million over two years. Thus far, Supervisor Kuehl has expressed interest in supporting, and asks that *all* Board offices be approached with the proposal, possibly by way of a cluster presentation. The proposal, upon the Third District’s suggestion, is that each Board office contribute \$200,000 each year for two years. The funding will support K-12 anti-bullying efforts (particularly in communities such as the Antelope Valley and Pomona, among others in each district that similarly may lack the resources), being that over 60% of Anti Hate related calls thus far are due to reported bullying in schools. Due to timing concerns, commissioners are encouraged to meet with their respective Supervisors as soon as possible in order to respectfully request some of the DMH dedicated funds.

6.2 Countywide Equity Initiative – Board Motion to Support with Resources: Item tabled due to time.

6.3. LACCHR Place in County Government Structure: It was moved by Montaño and seconded by Preeti Kulkarni to approve the committee’s recommendation, in its entirety, as stated in the attached Proposed Commission Motion (version 5). The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Davidson and seconded by Gilberg for staff to utilize the committee’s language from the research in its Proposed Commission Motion (version 5) as supporting documentation in the development of a Board letter. The motion passed unanimously.

6.4 Policing and Human Relations Report and Recommendations: Item tabled due to time.

7. Commissioners’ Comments/Announcements: No comments or announcements.

8. Adjournment: It was moved by Gilberg and seconded by Kulkarni to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montaño
Commission Vice President-Secretary