



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Commission Meeting of April 1, 2019  
CSS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Jarrett Tomás Barrios Samuel Liu (By Phone)  
Ilan Davidson Daisy Ma (By Phone)  
Adrian Dove Fredrick Sykes  
Isabelle Gunning Sandra Thomas (By Phone)

**ABSENT:** Michael Gi-Hao Chung Preeti Kulkarni  
Portert Gilberg Guadalupe Montaña  
Derric Johnson

**STAFF:** Robin Toma Grace Löwenberg  
Robert Sowell Jaye Winter

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. when a quorum of the Commission was reached. with 7 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Ilan Davidson 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 Davidson, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of March 4, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report:**
  - 3.1 **Status Update on Sheriff Villanueva and AG's Michael Newman at Future Commission Meeting:** President Barrios reported that the director of the Attorney General's Civil Rights Division, Michael Newman, agreed to meet with the Commission. Mr. Newman is seeking permission to speak on certain topics. Sheriff Alex Villanueva also agreed to meet with the Commission, and there will be a follow-up specifically with the Policing Committee's work as well.
  - 3.2 **Spotlight on Staff: Acting WDACS Director Otto Solorzano and Gustavo Partida:** Newly sworn-in Acting Director Otto Solorzano introduced himself, sharing a brief biography from his humble beginnings as a student in Guatemala, to his thirteen years as

WDACS Chief Deputy Director. He thanked the Commissioners for their work and noted the Commission's importance in light of current events at home and abroad. Particularly, he commended Commission efforts in advancing the Anti Hate Campaign. Mr. Solorzano offered to help any way he can to advance the Commission's principles. (Gustavo Partida was unable to present at this meeting due to a change in his schedule.)

**4. Executive Director's Report:**

- 4.1 Anti-Hate Campaign Update:** Mr. Toma highlighted that Acting Director Solorzano is embracing the Anti Hate campaign as an imperative for the WDACS department. Additionally, the County's Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC) recently awarded a grant of \$187,000 in support of the Commission's 211 Anti Hate campaign work. Staff was asked to return to the QPC in 12 to 18 to re-apply for additional amounts. Moreover, the County's Department of Mental Health (DMH) also wishes to financially assist the campaign and contribute \$800,000 in direct dollars to help the program. Funds will go to training staff, developing an online intake platform, and online service coordination. Finally, the program will give a better, broader picture of where hate-motivated hostility occurs in LA County. It will also ensure follow-up services to callers, providing 24/7 support in multiple languages, all with quality control mechanisms in place to evaluate agency performance and excellent customer service.
- 4.2 County's Rise Up Youth Conference of March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Mr. Toma recounted the forwarded video shared via email, of Mr. Solorzano addressing the entire WDACS department and in which he commends the March 15<sup>th</sup> Rise Up Youth Conference hosted by Human Relations. Mr. Toma especially thanked Commissioner Derric Johnson for his attendance, for bringing students, and for his organization's financial sponsorship.

**5. Committee Reports**

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Committee Chair Gunning gave the report. The Committee's timeline is being extended as staff continues to reach community partners and gather feedback from the hearings. Significant data is being gathered from each district. The stakeholder feedback sessions will conclude by the end of April. Also, the academic partner for the current phase is successfully secured and the committee is optimistic that UCLA Law School will also be the third and final academic partner. Initial drafts of the report are slated for July and August, after which the Commission will provide input. The final report will then be published in September. Video components are also being completed.
- 5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson reported he is now awaiting the total number of nominations from staff. A meeting will be convened on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Committee to review the nominations and to select the final recommendations. Those selected nominations will be brought before the Commission in May.
- 5.3 IAOHRA 2020 Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson reported that he and Mr. Toma consulted with Helms Briscoe, which conducted a complimentary proposal along with a comprehensive report of the many hotels that expressed interest in hosting the IAOHRA 2020 conference in Los Angeles. The hotels represent a wide swath across the county. Factors for

the Commission to consider include available programming outside the conference itself. The primary hotels being considered are two in Hollywood, and two in downtown. Following the letter of support from Supervisor Hahn, Commissioner Davidson suggested soliciting similar support from each Board office in the amount of \$10,000 to help offset the registration cost for attendees. The immediate next step is to estimate the number of possible attendees based on previous conference data, and to compare that data against hotel minimums. Mr. Toma will request from IAOHRA the budget from the 2018 Cincinnati conference. Commissioner Davidson added that acquiring letters of support from the Board offices would definitively secure Los Angeles the 2020 bid. Mr. Toma will consult with Acting Director Otto Solorzano about approaching other board offices.

- 5.4 **Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Committee Chair Montañó was absent. In her place, Mr. Toma provided the update that the committee meeting is in the process of being scheduled for April 10 or 11. At that convening, the Commission's location in the county organizational structure will be discussed.

**6. Action/Discussion Items**

- 6.1 **Update on the Issue of the Deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean:** President Barrios stated the Commission accomplished its desired progress of this recurring item. The Sheriff and District Attorney are investigating the cases, having re-opened Mr. Gemmel Moore's previously closed case. The commission discussed and decided to continue the recurring item in the event that it should need to act expeditiously, at least until the final reports are released. Updates will occur as necessary.
- 6.2 **Additional Commissioner Members to Committee (Sandra Thomas to IAOHRA 2020 Committee):** President Barrios requested previous meeting minutes to confirm the exact manner in which commissioners are appointed to committees and formally become committee members. Commissioners wish to learn if committee appointments require mere appointment by the president, or an actual vote by the committee to ratify.

It was moved by Commissioner Sandra Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Adrian Dove to add Commissioner Sandra Thomas to the IAOHRA 2020 Committee. The motion carried unanimously. None opposed.

- 6.3 **Transgender Community Equity and Inclusion:** Commissioner Gilberg was absent. Mr. Toma provided the update. He met with commissioners Gilberg and Barrios, and staff to discuss the continuing development of a transgender community input into county government. Staff is going to gather more information about how the City of Los Angeles's advisory body is structured and composed. After which Mr. Toma and Commissioner Gilberg will confer on next steps.
- 6.4 **Whether Homeless Should be Included in Hate Crime Laws:** Mr. Toma explained that this item stems from the same question being recently considered at a LA city council meeting, whether to include homeless individuals in hate crime laws. The item before the Commission at this time is for discussion and in anticipation of such question. In this vein, the Commission might wish to consider an agency position.

- 6.5 Commission Leadership Nominations Committee:** The original inclusion of this item was inadvertently overlooked in the agenda, as a scrivener's error. Mr. Toma apologized. President Barrios explained the process to nominate commissioners for the positions of president, two vice presidents, and a vice president/secretary. The committee will convene before the May 6 meeting and form a slate to present to the Commission in May. At the May meeting, general nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The election of officers will then occur and become immediately official at the June 3 meeting.

President Barrios moved to appoint Commissioner Fred Sykes as Chair and as the Supervisorial District 1 representative of the Nominations Committee, and Commissioners Derric Johnson, Preeti Kulkarni, Sam Liu, and Michael Gi-Hao Chung to represent Supervisorial Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively. The motion carried unanimously. None opposed.

- 7. Commissioners' Comments/Announcements:** Commissioner Dove expressed concern over recent student violence at Paramount High School, and asked that staff investigate if there were hate related motives. Mr. Toma will offer assistance and outreach and give an update at the next Executive Director's report. Commissioner Dove also noted that today marks exactly one year from the next national Census.

Separately, Commissioner Davidson received a letter from a Muslim resident in light of the recent New Zealand massacre, asking that inter-faith leaders be gathered to create a larger conversation under auspices of the Commission and to show solidarity. This will similarly be addressed in the regular order of business in May's meeting. Mr. Toma and Commissioner Davidson will discuss between now and May, regarding the Fourth District resident's letter.

Mr. Toma announced that the first ever L.A. Countywide Trans and Non-binary Youth Conference will take place on April 5, and shared a flier. He also announced that next Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors will present a scroll to honor the Human Relations' LA County Dispute Resolution Program as part of Mediation Week.

- 8. Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Adrian Dove and seconded by Commissioner Davidson to adjourn the meeting in memory of Nipsey Hussle, and in honor of Cesar Chavez. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montaña  
Commission Vice President-Secretary