



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Meeting of May 3, 2021

Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT:	Ilan Davidson	Preeti Kulkarni
	Kathleen Domingo	Tonya McKenzie
	Adrian Dove	Guadalupe Montaño
	Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Fredrick Sykes
	Porter Gilberg	Sandra Thomas
	Isabelle Gunning	
ABSENT:	Michael Cheung	Derric Johnson
STAFF:	Robin Toma	Grace Löwenberg
	Robert Sowell	Jaye Winter

- 1. Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Moment of Silence:** President Guadalupe Montaño called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. with a quorum of 11 commissioners in attendance.
- 2. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Isabelle Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of April 5, 2021. Commissioner Adrian Dove abstained. The motion carried.
- 3. President's Report**
 - 3.1. Appreciation for & Farewell to Commissioner Kathleen Domingo:** President Guadalupe Montaño and commissioners joined in thanking and bidding goodbye to Commissioner Kathleen Domingo, who shared that she and her family will be relocating to Sacramento to continue her work with the Catholic community. She offered to remain in communication regarding the commission's strategic planning.
 - 3.2. Strategic Planning – Commissioners' Environmental Scan and SWOT Interview:** Montaño briefly reminded commissioners to please complete their assigned interviews with prospective strategic plan stakeholders.
- 4. Executive Director's Report**
 - 4.1. Meet the Staff –Alexandra Valdes & Staff Updates:** Executive Director Robin Toma introduced LA County/City of LA Native American Indian Commission (NAIC) Executive Director, Alexandra Valdes. Ms. Valdes shared a brief personal and professional biography, noting her upbringing in Washington state and her tribal ties. She has been with the County for 3 years and is proud to be serving the NAIC on what

will be its 45th year this fall. She gave a broad overview of how her commission functions, and a glimpse into her current portfolio which ranges from COVID-19 response, to addressing socioeconomic disparities in indigenous communities. Of recent note, she highlighted that NAIC brought forth and advanced the Board's motion of recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day—removing from the day the Christopher Columbus designation; as well as developed proper land acknowledgment protocol for tribe related ceremony. Finally, at the NAIC's instruction, Ms. Valdes administers the commission's \$250,000 community block grant. She closed by adding that she is not certain where the NAIC will be placed following the Board and CEO's restructuring of the WDACS Department, although it is the NAIC's desire to remain with the County's Workforce programs and their anticipated, newly created department.

- 4.2. Program and Budget Update:** Mr. Toma reported that a recent LA Times Op-Ed piece specifically recognized the HRC's LA vs Hate campaign as one of three main strategies to stem anti-Asian incidents of hate in LA county; among—more generally—community safety programs (such as bystander trainings) and educational changes (such as to curricula that promotes inclusion of Asian American history with other ethnic studies curricula in required classes.)

He additionally relayed that the agency is requesting \$9.5 million, over three years, via WDACS' formal proposal to the CEO—of the County's \$1.9 billion in federal American Rescue Plan funds. The proposal seeks to provide sustainable support in addressing the County's recovery needs regarding pandemic-related hate. However, the CEO's recommendation, which forwards all departments' requests to the Board, did not include HRC's. Since the fund disbursements occur in installments, the hope is that if consideration is not given this year, that CEO will consider HRC for the subsequent installments. The agency is meeting with the Board offices at the direction of WDACS on these matters. Commissioners inquired about whether to approach their respective Board offices, which they were informed they are free to contact them as they perceive to be appropriate.

- 4.3. Board Actions Regarding Our Agency:** Mr. Toma explained that the Board ordered the CEO to report by October 2021 as to the placement of HRC and NAIC in the County organizational structure, although it may be sooner, possibly in July or August depending on the CEO's discretion, and in light of WDACS. 21 now gives commissioners a specific date by which the report back to the Board will occur with respect to anticipated placement of the HRC in light of WDACS' restructuring. This provides the time frame in which commissioners may work to influence their Board offices regarding ultimate placement of the agency. Once his own research is complete, Mr. Toma will present his recommendation to the Policy & Advocacy Committee.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1. Nominating Committee:** Committee Chair Jeanette Ellis-Royston reported that she attempted, however, was unable to successfully convene a meeting of the committee with quorum. Thus, a slate of officers for 2021-2022 will have to be formulated in June, with postponement of the final commission vote for approval in July. Commissioner Sandra Thomas reported that she informed commissioners that Commissioner Michael Cheung will be representing the Fifth District on the Nominating Committee.
- 5.2. Ad Hoc Committee on Policing & Human Relations:** No report.
- 5.3. John Anson Ford Human Relations (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Ilan Davidson reminded commissioners that the event will be May 27.

5.4. Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning: Committee Chair Kulkarni confirmed with each commissioner their intended group to interview in order to inform the agency's strategic plan process moving forward. The standard list of questions to ask organizations is found the commissioners' packet.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1. Presentation of Slate of Officer Nominees – Nominations Committee: Item tabled.

7.2. IAOHRA Conference 2021: Item tabled.

7.3. LA vs Hate Update: Item tabled.

7.4. Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative: Item tabled.

7.5. Commission Strategic Planning – Environmental Scan & SWOT Input: Item tabled.

8. Commissioner Comments/Announcements: None.

9. Adjournment: Without objection, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Tamar Davidson, mother of Commissioner Ilan Davidson; and LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, American Indian civil rights leader, at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary