



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California, 90020
www.lahumanrelations.org
(213) 738-2788

[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of August 3, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

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

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** President Guadalupe Montaña called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. with a quorum of 10 commissioners in attendance.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Sandra Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Isabelle Gunning to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of July 6, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. President's Report**
 - 3.1 Report on LA vs Hate Action Committee Meeting of July 22:** President Montaña shared about attending the 'LA vs Hate' Action Committee meeting, noting that it was encouraging to witness and interact with folks representing various County departments.
 - 3.2 Request for Commissioner Participation in LA vs Hate Campaign/Program:** President Montaña invited all to visit the LAvsHate.org website and to share the related content on social media.
- 4. Executive Director's Report**
 - 4.1 Recent Board of Supervisors Actions on Equity and Alternatives to Incarceration:** Executive Director Robin Toma reported on a July 21 Board action, "Establishing an Anti Racist Los Angeles County Policy Agenda." The motion directs the HRC Executive Director to work with the County CEO to contract out for research and writing of an annual report to the Board on the state of Black LA County, starting June 2022. That process will seek input from the commission, with regular updates provided to

the body by staff as well. Another motion which relates to our Commission work is the Board's action to place on the ballot a measure which would allocate 10% of the county's budget to Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI).

The Board separately has a number of relevant items slated for tomorrow's agenda. Namely, anticipated consultant report backs on the recommendation of the creation of separate departments of Aging and Workforce Development—with likely possible effect on the HRC's own placement within WDACS and the County structure. In two motions, the Board asks the named divisions to create timelines for the creation of those new departments. Importantly, also invoked and referenced are HRC, NAIC, and DRP, who are asked for a 30-day report back on their individual division intentions by the end of FY 2021. Toma reminded commissioners that the HRC has already adopted a position on this which has been conveyed to the Board offices and the CEO's office. Finally, the next steps involve assessing the process of the departments' creation.

4.2 July 21 Report to the Board on Countywide Equity: Additionally at the July 21 Board meeting, DHR and WDACS/HRC's joint report back on the Countywide Equity Initiative successfully recommended the creation of an entity with appropriate staffing and resources to coordinate and support the 40-plus initiatives already occurring across the County relating to equity, and to lead on key Countywide policies, programs, and procedures. DHR, WDACS and CEO interviewed over 10 other agencies across the county and counterparts across the nation, to gather the necessary data for making the case to the Board for a central entity that may better position LA County to be a national model of equity.

4.3 Update on Staffing & Budget: Amid the 8% reduction in Net County Cost due to the pandemic and various board motions tasking the Commission staff with responsibilities in addressing hate and advancing equity, HRC received the positive news that it received exemption. The hiring freeze was lifted to allow a senior position and two manager positions to be filled, and there are no negative effects of the budget reductions on HRC staffing. The County's Supplemental Budget which is adjusted taking into account the state and federal budgets will continue to be formulated into September and October. Commissioners will receive relevant updates upon its adoption.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning provided an overview of Phase II following the release of the policing report, expected to occur over a 3 to 5 year timeline. Phase II will focus on implementation. HRC and the committee's staff will convene again with stakeholders—old and new—to track community needs. It will assess and seek how best to facilitate and foster relationships and change with law enforcement, and communities and stakeholders.

5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Committee Chair Davidson provided the update that he recently met with staff to discuss the nominations received. He is awaiting a list of nominations by district, and will share it once it is available.

6. Action/Discussion Items

6.1 Commission Committees & Membership for FY 2020-2021: Mr. Toma reviewed the COVID-19 Response, IAOHRA 2021, John Anson Ford Awards, Policing & Human Relations, and Policy & Advocacy Committee membership rosters as current as the end of FY 2019, noting that the Commission's

bylaws require the re-establishment of committees every fiscal year. All committee membership rosters will remain the same, with the additions of Commissioner Porter Gilberg to the Policy and Advocacy Committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to re-establish the COVID-19 Response, IAOHRA 2021, John Anson Ford Awards, Policing & Human Relations, and Policy & Advocacy committees with their existing, respective rosters as presented with the stated addition. The motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Implementation of Our “Redefining Policing” Report & Recommendations: This item is a placeholder in the event of current events requiring action by the Commission. Policing & Human Relations Chair Gunning reported there is presently nothing to consider apart from the committee report, but asks to continue the item as a regular item for that original stated purpose.

6.3. John Anson Ford Awards Event – Plans & Process: JAF Awards Committee Chair Davidson stated that a conversation about a contingency plan may be needed for the proposed January 2021 awards event if it may not be held in-person as a result of the pandemic. He asked commissioners to consider a date for deciding when to move forward with plans for an in-person or a virtual event.

6.4 County Governmentwide Equity Initiative: President Montaña and Mr. Toma explained the item is simply an opportunity for discussion or further questions from the Director’s Report or to consider actions moving forward. She encouraged all to read the report back to the Board.

7. Commissioners’ Comments/Announcements: Member of the public and a LA County Probation Department fellow focusing on bail reform, Ms. Shadeequa Smith, inquired into HRC and the Policing & Human Relations Committee’s community engagement in general. Specifically, she is curious if Probation is included as a stakeholder in policing reform-related conversations. Commissioner Gunning answered that although Probation has not been a sole focus of the committee, she is happy to connect to further discuss a partnership.

President Montaña reminded all regarding the importance of voting and mail-in ballots, asking that all similarly remind their friends and families.

8. Adjournment: It was moved by Gunning and seconded by Davidson to adjourn the meeting in memory of Congressman and civil rights advocate John Lewis, and Reverend C.T. Vivian who likewise worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary