



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Commission Meeting of January 7, 2019  
Workforce Development Aging and Community Services (WDACS)  
3175 W. Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California 90020  
Rm 301 CSS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT: Jarrett Tomás Barrios Daisy Ma  
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung Guadalupe Montaña  
Porter Gilberg Fredrick Sykes  
Preeti Kulkarni Sandra Thomas (By Phone)

ABSENT: Ilan Davidson Isabelle Gunning  
Adrian Dove Samuel Liu

STAFF: Robert Sowell Terri Villa-McDowell  
Grace Löwenberg Jaye Winter

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. A quorum of the Commission was reached with 8 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The Commission meeting minutes of November 5, and December 3, 2018, were included in the agenda packet for consideration and approval.  
It was moved by Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni, and seconded by Commissioner Sandra Thomas, to approve the minutes of November 5, and December 3, 2018, as presented. The motion carried with 7 commissioners voting in favor. Commissioner Daisy Ma abstained. None opposed.
3. **President's Report:**
  - 3.1 **Update on EmbRace/Civic Dinners:** President Barrios stated that there is no update to report at this time.
  - 3.2 **December 14<sup>th</sup> CAHRO Statewide Human Relations Conference:** President Barrios reported on the California Association of Human Relations (CAHRO) conference, noting it

was well attended, with significant County representation, as well as many youth in attendance. President Barrios invited Commissioner Sykes and Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell to share their experiences. Commissioner Sykes noted an outstanding amount of diversity and energy, with various cities represented. He commended the video component and the discussions held regarding neighborhood and community conflicts, noting the Department of Justice was present. Mr. Sowell likewise noted that, among statewide organizations, other counties, cities, non-profits, and community based organizations, the County was well represented. He commended the conference's emphasis on incorporating youth involvement, such as a youth panel regarding campus engagement in social justice issues, a segment on youth and police enforcement relationship building, and a presentation on an investigation into white supremacist groups. There were abundant opportunities for idea sharing, and overall the event was well received.

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

**4.1 CAHRO Conference:** Executive Director Toma was absent due to illness. The report will be given at the February Commission meeting.

**4.2 Update on Anti-Hate Campaign:** Assistant Executive Director Sowell invited Terri Villa-McDowell, Consultant, to present regarding the current challenges with the Anti-Hate Campaign. Particularly, Ms. Villa-McDowell highlighted the tripartite effort to unite communities by way of public education and a major marketing campaign in the next six weeks; building a new and unprecedented Countywide system for reporting acts of hate through 211 LA; and building community capacity to respond to and prevent acts of hate. A primary challenge includes slow County procurement policies. For this reason, the Human Relations branch will bid and contract out various project components to small vendors, while leaving possibly larger project components to CBS-Entercom. This model will make use of, and benefit from, an existing County Department of Public Health (DPH) contract with CBS-Entercom. This follows the same approach as another County agency. This will ensure project timeline, prompt deliverables, and the necessary contracting to launch the campaign.

President Barrios asked a clarifying question with respect to the County's public bidding process. Ms. Villa-McDowell answered that the Human Relations branch's work simply becomes folded into existing DPH contracting with CBS-Entercom; the Human Relations branch transferring funds to DPH. This avoids a significant time delay. Mr. Sowell assured it is not unusual, and that the branch is not the first County entity to seize such an opportunity. Ms. Villa-McDowell added that in a recent conversation with the CBS-Entercom coordinator, approval of the process is imminent. President Barrios offered to speak with the DPH Director should obstacles arise.

Specific to the Hate Crime Network and County 211 reporting, President Barrios recalled a previous presentation by Executive Director Toma, of a shortfall in resources necessary to ensure a system of proper hate crime and related incident reporting. Noting this new campaign plan, President Barrios requests a report to learn what exactly the capacities are that are achievable with this new campaign funding, that was not achievable before. (For example, does it replace any other services being provided by other non-profits, or is this in addition to those other non-profits' services?) Ms. Villa-McDowell answered that this is an innovative project that the County is leading, and the City of Los Angeles helped build

part of the web-based coordination of services. Overall, this will better help capture data relating to hate acts, not only hate crimes. Mr. Sowell explained the process, and that the new data set will either be incorporated into the annual Hate Crime Report, or it will create a new report altogether that does not impede the hate crime related data. Such remains to be decided.

President Barrios requests a presentation of the detailed campaign budget, a summary of the Board's vote, and any asks of the Commission itself. That is, assistance with networking and relevant fundraising, for example. In it, he wishes to see the breakdown of funds infused into the Human Relations department from the Board's September vote for the campaign, the funds that go to 211, and those funds that are re-granted to partnering non-profits. Additionally, he wishes to learn more regarding the branch's mention of fundraising for the campaign, as Ms. Villa-McDowell noted that County funding only extends until end of June 2019, with hopes of multi-year renewal.

Commissioner Daisy Ma asked if the hiring of two new department staff specifically for the campaign is included in the baseline \$500,000 campaign budget. Mr. Sowell responded affirmatively, as the staff comprises part of the campaign infrastructure.

Commissioner Kulkarni asked about the timeline for the launch of the County 211 hate crime reporting line. Ms. Villa-McDowell stated it is going to be operational February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**4.3 Commission Staff Presentations: New Special Assistant, Jaye Winter:** Assistant Executive Director Sowell invited Jaye Winter, new Special Assistant, to introduce himself. Mr. Winter shared a brief biography and expressed his enthusiasm about the Commission and the Branch's work.

## **5. Committee Reports**

**5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Commissioners Kulkarni and Sykes gave the report. Commissioner Kulkarni emphasized that the previous timeline was too short to acquire stakeholder feedback and produce an adequate report. Due to the County's lengthy and time-consuming procurement procedures, and per staff suggestion, stakeholder feedback will be broken into two separate parts. It would otherwise last three months to find a consultant, and the need is to move faster. There will be two separate reports. The thought as it stands is to have the same consultant produce both pieces, but both being separate and distinct deliverables in order to meet report timelines. President Barrios enquired if the stakeholders' report will merely include data from oral testimonies. Commissioner Kulkarni clarified that there will be an additional component. That being that all stakeholders from the previous two years will be engaged again once more, and the subsequent information will then be synthesized to inform policy. Commissioner Sykes added that the consultant is encouraging as many commissioners to participate as well. Mr. Sowell commented there are going to be facilitated dialogues with smaller groups, and the schedules are forthcoming. Commissioner Kulkarni stated that the statement of work is being finalized now. Mr. Sowell gave examples of the desired qualifications for the author(s) of the report. The process requires at least three qualified candidates. The Request for Proposal will be ready in the next three weeks. Commissioner Sykes also noted the media aspect of the stakeholders report. Three related videos will be created. These are already funded, and will be produced in-house.

**5.2 Ad Hoc Committee on Hosting IAOHRA Conference 2020:** Commissioner Ilan Davidson was absent. President Barrios asked that the item be heard at the February meeting.

**6. Action/Discussion Items**

**6.1 Update on Gemmel Moore's Death:** Commissioner Porter Gilberg reported he is awaiting an update from Executive Director Toma on the draft letter begun last month. He announced WEHOville reported this morning that another death has occurred in the residence of Ed Buck. The individual's name and details are not yet known. President Barrios asked Mr. Sowell that he and Mr. Toma request from City of West Hollywood City Councilmember Lindsay Horvath and the local Sheriff's Department official, a briefing on this latest report. Commissioner Gilberg added that Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's offices have not been helpful. Commissioner Gilberg and Mr. Toma were drafting an additional letter to urge further investigation. Commissioner Sykes suggests reaching out to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and the assigned Town Sheriff in West Hollywood. President Barrios requests support from staff. Commissioner Gilberg and Mr. Toma are continuing to finalize language for the letter. Commissioner Gilberg will share the link to the report. He states that the last letter asked to reconsider charges due to disconcerting incidents of access to evidence and decisions not to file charges. President Barrios states this recent death now underlines the fair and full inquiry of the previous request, and importance of bringing new charges. This forces a fair review. Mr. Toma and Commissioner Gilberg will send the letters to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, her Chief of Staff, and Councilwoman Lindsay Horvath. Commissioners Kulkarni, Montañó and Gunning will additionally bring this to the attention of Supervisor Kuehl, as Third District appointees. Mr. Toma will coordinate the outreach. President Barrios asked that the letters be sent by this Monday or Tuesday.

**6.2 Hosting the IAOHRA Conference in Year 2020:** Due to Commissioner Davidson's absence, President Barrios asked that the item be heard again at the February meeting.

**6.3 John Anson Ford Awards 2019:** President Barrios asked the item be heard again at the February meeting.

**7. Commissioners' Comments/Announcements:** Commissioner Guadalupe Montañó made an announcement regarding a possible upcoming teachers' strike this Thursday. Commissioner Kulkarni asked if an EmbRace/Civic Dinners has occurred yet. President Barrios answered he is in the process of planning one; however, no date is set yet.

**8. Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Montañó, and seconded by Commissioner Ma to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montañó  
Commission Vice President-Secretary