



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Commission Meeting of March 4, 2019  
WDACS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Jarrett Tomás Barrios      Preeti Kulkarni  
Ilan Davidson                              Samuel Liu  
Adrian Dove                                 Daisy Ma (By Phone)  
Porter Gilberg                                Guadalupe Montaña  
Isabelle Gunning                            Fredrick Sykes  
Derric Johnson                               Sandra Thomas (By Phone)

**ABSENT:** Michael Gi-Hao Cheung

**STAFF:** Robin Toma                              Gustavo Guerra-Vasquez  
Robert Sowell                                Marshall Wong  
Grace Löwenberg                             Jaye Winter

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. A quorum of the Commission was reached with 12 commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson, and seconded by Commissioner Guadalupe Montaña, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of February 4, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report:**
  - 3.1 **Update on the Issue of the Deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean:** President Barrios shared that the Committee on Policing and Human Relations, he, and Robin Toma and Robert Sowell met with Sheriff Alex Villanueva. The commissioners who attended noted their impressions of the meeting. Commissioners Isabelle Gunning, Preeti Kulkarni, and Adrian Dove agreed that they were largely encouraged by the Sheriff's statements at that meeting; however, they want to see actions. Of notable mention were the areas of immigration, community input on the selection of police station captains, and the cases of Mr. Gemmel Moore and Mr. Timothy Dean's deaths in the home of Mr. Ed Buck in West Hollywood. Sheriff Villanueva committed to speaking with the entire Commission at a later date, as well as to assigning senior officials to the Protecting Vulnerable Communities

Board Motion Initiative, as well as the Countywide Equity framework/governance group. Furthermore, the County Human Relations team was welcomed to follow up with the Sheriff's office directly in the future regarding the two cases, rather than the West Hollywood station. As it stands, the investigations are on-going. Commissioner Gunning expressed dissatisfaction with the unanswered question of how to go about acquiring information if strict restrictions exist in discussing open investigations. Executive Director Toma added that the meeting was successful in introducing the new Sheriff to the Human Relations Commission's work and beginning our relationship with the Sheriff and his department.

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

- 4.1 Transgender Advisory Body Update:** Mr. Toma provided an update since the passing of the previous meeting's motion recommending the formation of a transgender advisory body for LA County. After consulting Board offices, it does not appear appropriate at this time to pursue creation of a joint County-City commission, but rather an entity that works with and advises our County Human Relations Commission. However, the Commission will continue seeking alternatives and will approach the City of LA Transgender Advisory Council as well as community organizations, to inform LACCHR in formulating its own model. President Barrios, Commissioner Gilberg, and Mr. Toma will meet before following up with LA City.
- 4.2 Meeting with New LA County Sheriff Villanueva:** Item was covered in item 3.1
- 4.3 IAOHRA Conference in LA in 2020:** Mr. Toma reported that the International Association of Human Relations Agencies (IAOHRA) is likely considering August 2020 as the prospective month to host its conference in Los Angeles. IAHOA members are not currently considering other host cities besides Los Angeles. Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Hosting the IAHOA Conference, Commissioner Davidson, noted that the Board offices are actively being lobbied for financial support and some have pledged their support, notably Supervisor Janice Hahn. The next steps include programmatic development and actually convening as a planning committee.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Committee Chair Gunning gave the report. The Committee is moving forward with the video components of the report, and staff is reviewing reports for feedback. Two prospective community academic partners exist, and by the end of the week a partner will be selected. The budget allocated to produce the summary of the feedback totals \$6,000. Commissioner Gunning assured the Commission that the previously selected academic partner is not under consideration for this next phase, due to research discrepancies in their previous reports.
- 5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson stated the JAF Committee will begin convening again. He and staff have already begun to meet to establish a timeline. Commissioners were advised that awardee nomination forms must be submitted by the week of March 18, well before the next Commission meeting. The JAF Awards Event Committee will meet this month via conference call to review the suggested timeline and scope. Gustavo Guerra-Vasquez will inform them of the call details. The actual

event date will likely remain October 15, the second Tuesday in October, as a brunch. The exact time is yet to be determined.

## **6. Action/Discussion Items**

- 6.1 Possible Changes to the WDACS Department and its Impact on LACCHR:** Mr. Toma explained in-depth the two Board motions that set in motion the possible creation of two distinct departments for Aging and for Workforce Development. This includes Supervisor Solis's amendment requesting an accompanying assessment of the Human Relations Commission and branch. CEO is in the process of working with consultants within a timeframe of 9 months for the initial report back on a prospective Aging department. The first report back may come before the Board as early as October 2019. No timeline is set yet for the Workforce related motion. President Barrios sought feedback from commissioners on how to proceed as a body. General consensus was to assume a proactive stance ahead of the report-backs. The Commission wished and instructed Mr. Toma and staff to begin crafting a strategy to inform the Board, their senior staff, and the consultants about the history and role of LACCHR. Some Board senior staff may be unfamiliar with the Commission's institutional significance. Branch staff will write talking points for the Commission to review and eventually present to the Board. Commissioner Davidson added that aside from agency autonomy and advocacy, one possible benefit is the potential to remove LACCHR from sunset review mandates.

It was moved by Commissioner Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni to refer this to the Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee and amend the roster of committee membership to include Commissioners Derric Johnson, Adrian Dove, Samuel Liu, Daisy Ma, and Guadalupe Montañó as chair. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.2 Use of Terms Referencing Jewish People in Commission Publications:** Mr. Toma summarized the chronology of noted concern within the Commission on use of the term "Jew" as a noun in reference to Jewish people. Senior Commission Staff Marshall Wong explained research into the use of the term by various Jewish organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League, the Museum of Tolerance, and the National Museum of the Holocaust, the LGBT Center, and a diversity style guide among other sources. Commissioner Gilberg, asked about other Human Relations commissions or agencies on their particular use, if at all. He explained his concern stems from two people over the course of several years voicing their concern over its use and wishes to prevent further individuals feeling potentially offended in the future. Particularly, he is concerned with its use due to it being used disparagingly across history. The Commission discussed possible alternatives, such as using "Jewish people" instead; ceasing use of the word altogether and erring on the side of inclusion; or creating a style guide with only strategic use of its invocation. Commissioner Davidson sympathized, affirming historical misuse of the word, but does not have an objection to the use of "Jew" as a noun, nor feels offense personally. He and Commissioner Gunning agreed it is reasonable to wish for a broad range of research and mentioned that branch staff acted appropriately by conducting in-depth research.
- 6.3 Whether Homeless Should be Included in Hate Crime Laws:** The item was postponed to the meeting of April 1, 2019, without objection due to time constraints.

7. **Commissioners' Comments/Announcements:** No announcements were made.
8. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montañó  
Commission Vice President-Secretary