



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Commission Meeting of June 3, 2019
CSS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT:

Jarrett Tomás Barrios	Derric Johnson
Ilan Davidson	Guadalupe Montaña
Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Fredrick Sykes
Porter Gilberg	Sandra Thomas (By Phone)
Isabelle Gunning	Guadalupe Montaña

ABSENT:

Michael Gi-Hao Chung	Preeti Kulkarni
Adrian Dove	Samuel Liu

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 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioners Ilan Davidson and seconded by Isabelle Gunning to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of May 6, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report:** President Barrios announced the upcoming 2019 IAOHRA Conference being held in Orlando, Florida, August 18-22. He encouraged new commissioners to attend. Up to three commissioners will be able to attend with their expenses covered by the budget. Executive Director Robin Toma added that the conference will include a civil rights tour of Orlando, presentation of new policies to protect individuals from discrimination on the basis of hair and hair styles, and presentation on hate crime and rapid response networks.
4. **Executive Director's Report: Update on County Equity Summit, Anti-Hate Campaign and Dispute Resolution Program:**

Mr. Toma provided a general update on the County Anti-Hate Campaign, noting that the Office of the Inspector General released a complementary report also emphasizing the need of the Sheriff's Department to further incorporate Implicit Bias Training into its structure. Anti-Hate Campaign efforts are moving forward to curb all manner of hate incidents beyond only hate crimes. Moreover, the Campaign has garnered the substantial financial support of the Department of Mental Health. The Human Relations branch is set to hire two new fulltime positions dedicated specifically to the Campaign starting in July. How the expansion of hate incident data will affect the Hate Crime Report is yet to be determined, and will depend in part on what data is received..

He also reported on the County's second annual Equity Summit held last week and commended Program Manager Robert Sowell for his co-chair work on the event's planning committee. The summit generated outstanding feedback and attracted over 900 attendees, doubling last year's attendance.

Mr. Toma further noted he appeared before Board Deputies for vetting the selection of Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) contractors. This program provides community mediations, day of court hearing mediations, and restorative justice mediations by a network of providers. Subsequently, the Human Relations branch is now developing contracts with the agencies which bid and were selected.

The Executive Director also explained that he will receive an update this week from the department's Human Resources Division on the hiring of a Transgender focused position slated to be done by July 1.

Finally, Mr. Toma introduced invited guest Mr. Michael Newman, Head of the California Department of Justice Civil Rights Unit at Attorney General Becerra's Office. Mr. Newman shared a brief professional biography. His department focuses on enforcing public rights via various units and has grown significantly since past years. It also engages in oversight, including government oversight, tracks prosecutorial data, releases an annual Hate Crime in California report, develops hate crime rapid response protocol, and supports local commissions. He introduced Ms. Rebekah Fretz, Deputy Attorney General in the Civil Rights division. Mr. Newman promised a letter of support to IAOHRA for the County's 2020 conference bid, and to participate if won.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning gave the report that the L.A. County Civilian Oversight Commission is planning its second annual conference and wishes to collaborate with the committee. Regarding this Commission's own Policing Committee hearings, she gave the update that staff continue working on the report's video component which will likely be ready in July.
- 5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Ilan Davidson reported the committee met and approved this year's nominees. The WDACS executive office now has those nominees, will convey them to the Board, and will hear back regarding their approval next week. The committee's next meeting will be June 17 at 11:30 am, to discuss the budget and October event timeline. Additionally, the committee will address possible monetization of the event by charging attendees, as well as sponsorship to further promote the awards.

- 5.3 **Ad Hoc IAOHRA 2020 Conference Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson reported that a site visit is scheduled on June 14, to tour all three or four hotel options. That will help finalize the County's bid package to IAOHRA to host the conference in 2020. Additionally, the committee will meet with L.A. City Mayor Eric Garcetti's office to seek his support and possible attendance to the conference. It will also meet with Supervisor Janice Hahn's office to finalize her support. The committee's next meeting will be June 17.
- 5.4 **Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Committee Chair Montaña shared that a meeting is being calendared for the committee to draft a one-page recommendation for the Human Relations Commission to become a standalone organization. It will then craft a larger dissemination strategy and present it to the entire commission.
- 5.5 **Nominations Committee:** Committee Chair Fredrick Sykes presented the slate of nominated commissioners for the positions of Commission officers for FY 2019-20.

6. **Action/Discussion Items**

6.1 **Elections of Commission Officers for FY 2019-2020:**

It was moved by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Sykes to elect Commissioners Jarrett Barrios for president, Guadalupe Montaña for vice president/secretary, Derric Johnson for vice president, Porter Gilberg for vice president, and Sandra Thomas for vice president. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.2 **Update on the Issue of the Deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean:** Chair Barrios noted that as far as he knew, the Sheriff's department has an open investigation into both deaths, and there was nothing else to report.
- 6.3 **John Anson Ford Nominees:** Item covered in 5.2.
- 6.4 **Census Partnership:** In Commissioner Dove's absence, Mr. Toma mentioned what he knew of the Census issues relevant to our Commission. He noted the country is approximately one year away from its next Census. Additionally, the Supreme Court will take up this week the wide-reaching subject of whether residents are to be asked about whether they are citizens in the Census. This will affect the County in terms of federal funding, amount of resources allocated, as well as fair political representation
- 6.5 **Paramount High School – Latinx/Black Tension:** In Commissioner Dove's absence, the Commission discussed recent school incidents in Orange County and Palmdale. Mr. Toma explained the Human Relations Commission offers our Commission's Rise Up guidebook, a series of human relations leadership lessons for different age groups, as well as technical assistance to schools. Schools must be willing to work with the Commission, however, to address root causes and prevention strategies. Commissioner Johnson advised that an extension of this item be referred and tabled for a later Policy & Advocacy Committee meeting, allowing for a larger and systemic discussion on structurally developing a rapid response protocol to address future school related concerns. The Policy & Advocacy Committee will meet in two months to determine such a rapid response protocol, and will return to the Commission in August with a proposal.

- 6.6 **Whether Homeless Should be Included in the Hate Crime Laws:** Without objection, the item was referred to the Policy & Advocacy Committee. The committee will report to the full commission next month.
7. **Commissioners' Comments/Announcements:** No announcements.
8. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioners Ilan Davidson and seconded by Isabelle Gunning. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montañó
Commission Vice President-Secretary