



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of July 1, 2019
WDACS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

PRESENT: Jarrett Tomás Barrios (By Phone) Derric Johnson
Adrian Dove Sam Lieu (By Phone)*
Jeanette Ellis-Royston Guadalupe Montaña
Michael Gi-Hao Chung Fredrick Sykes
Isabelle Gunning Sandra Thomas (By Phone)

*Not counted for quorum purposes

ABSENT: Ilan Davidson Preeti Kulkarni
Porter Gilberg

STAFF: Robin Toma Grace Löwenberg
Robert Sowell Jaye Winter

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission President Jarrett Barrios was unable to be present but participated by phone. He designated Commission Vice President-Secretary Guadalupe Montaña to preside, which she did, calling the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m. when a quorum of 9 commissioners was in attendance. Commissioner Montaña led the flag salute and a moment of silence was observed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes and seconded by Commissioner Isabelle Gunning to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of June 3, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **President's Report:**
 - 3.1 **Spotlight on Staff: Alexandra Ferguson, L.A. City/County Native American Indian Commission/Self Governance Board (NAIC/SGB) Executive Director:** Ms. Alexandra Ferguson was absent due to illness. The item was tabled.
4. **Executive Director's Report:**
 - 4.1 **Update on Anti-Hate Campaign and Hiring Trans Focused Position:** Executive Director Robin Toma noted that the new fiscal year has begun and official anti-hate campaign related work with 211 LA should start in August. It will continue through 2019 then be followed by a new two- to three-year contract, part of a larger county contract, in January 2020. He shared that there have been several campaign logo and slogan options produced by the graphic arts vendor. Finally, it was noted the new staff positions dedicated

to the campaign will hopefully be funded through the Supplemental Budget this October. Separately, the trans-focused job bulletin has posted and next, WDACS Human Resources will review the first 100 applications against the bulletin's minimum qualifications. In the event insufficient numbers are qualified, the posting will re-open to additional submissions. Upon finding qualified candidates, Human Resources will conduct the interviews using staffs' questions. The responses will be audio recorded for the commission staff to review.

4.2 IAOHRA 2019 in Orlando, IAOHRA 2020 in LA, and Recent EEOC Annual Training Conference: Mr. Toma recounted that the upcoming 2019 national International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) Conference will occur in Orlando, Florida, in August and three commissioners may attend with budgeted expenses covered. The Los Angeles IAOHRA 2020 host bid package is nearly finalized. He also reported at length on his attendance at the national EEOC Annual Training in San Diego in June, where he was invited to speak as IAOHRA President, and experienced workshops on balancing enforcement with training and education, civility and respect in the workplace, and the latest anti-discrimination laws and court decisions.

4.3 Network Against Hate Crime Meeting of June 20, 2019, HRFLAC Meeting of June 17, 2019: Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell shared that the recent L.A. County Network Against Hate Crime (NAHC) meeting in the City of Beverly Hills was a success. Many justice partners were present, and the primary focus was on recent school incidents. A panel was conducted and resources were offered to school districts in attendance.

Separately, Mr. Toma stated that the Human Relations Foundation of L.A. County (HRFLAC) board of directors successfully met and dissolved the foundation, per the recommendation of commission and staff.

Finally, he shared that he and Commissioner Sykes attended Supervisor Solis's inaugural LGBT Pride reception where many individuals were honored for their contribution and advocacy.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Committee Chair Gunning gave the report that the committee and staff continue to work on the report videos, are resolving confidentiality concerns, and are figuring how to incorporate partners. She added that future committee meetings will touch on better clarifying the meaning of Public Safety for communities, as well as what may be considered policing agencies. This is to distinguish the concepts of public safety and community safety, and to determine the specific responsibilities of a policing agency to the community.

Separately, Commissioner Gunning announced the Civilian Oversight Commission is hosting its annual conference on policing and wishes for the Human Relations Commission to be involved in its feedback session. The conference will be on October 19, 8 am to 3 pm at St. Anne's Conference and Event Center.

5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Vice President Montañó gave the report in place of Committee Chair Davidson. The committee has continued to meet and is requesting that the commission approve the expenditure side of the event budget report. Parking costs will be waived by the Board, however, are included in the report for informational purposes.

It was moved by Commissioner Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the expenditures as proposed in the event budget report. The motion carried unanimously.

5.3 Ad Hoc IAOHRA 2020 Conference Committee: Commissioner Montañó announced that partnering hotel options for IAHORA 2020 in Los Angeles have been narrowed to the Loews Hollywood, the InterContinental Downtown, and the Sheraton Grand Los Angeles. All three have been visited and all welcome having the County's business. The final proposal is forthcoming and will be shared with the entire commission soon. Competing proposers for IAOHRA 2020 will be notified in August.

5.4 Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee: Committee Chair Montañó shared the committee continues to consider the possible dissolution of WDACS and the commission's positioning within that. A formal recommendation is in the process of being drafted. The committee will also be addressing the subject of its school incident response protocol in order to formalize a structured process moving forward. This will help streamline staff outreach to school districts desiring resources and assistance. The committee will further deliberate whether to include homelessness in hate crime laws, as well as county implementation of the Human Rights Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). A committee meeting will be called this month.

6. Action/Discussion Items

6.1 Commissioners at IAOHRA 2019 Conference: All commissioners interested in attending the 2019 IAHORA Conference in Orlando, Florida (August 18-22) have responded by the deadline for the three budgeted slots.

It was moved by Commissioner Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Ellis-Royston to approve Commissioners Ilan Davidson, Guadalupe Montañó, and Jeanette Ellis-Royston to attend and represent the Commission at the upcoming 2019 IAOHRA Conference, and to expend up to \$2,000 per commissioner for registration, travel, and lodging purposes. The motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Census Partnership: Commissioner Adrian Dove introduced the item, noting that the 2020 Census is approximately one year away. He advised that interested commissioners may wish to seek appointment to Governor Newsom's California Complete Count Committee., as well as the Redistricting Commission.

6.3 Hate Crimes Re Noose Incident at Summerwind Elementary School: Mr. Toma recounted the recent news story of Palmdale Summerwind Elementary School teachers posing for a photo with a noose, and subsequent community reaction/controversy. The Human Relations staff are scheduled to have a meeting with Palmdale School District's equity officer.

Commissioner Ellis-Royston additionally brought attention to an incident last week in which teenagers who attend Quartz Hill High School shared an offensive video on social media. Mr. Toma will instruct staff to gather information and will send a letter to the Antelope Valley Union High School District governing body.

6.4 Paramount High School Latinx/Black Tensions: Commissioners briefly discussed reported ethnic tensions at Paramount High School-West Campus after a fight involved several students a few months ago. Mr. Toma commented that Paramount Unified School District is likely a district targeted by CEO as part of its Community Schools Initiative across seventeen schools, in partnership with LACOE. This initiative will serve to coordinate County agency support to parents, students, and their school communities through funding by the Department of Mental Health. In time the initiative will provide funding for County staff to be assigned at the schools in order to serve as liaisons. More information will be shared as the initiative develops.

6.5 Whether Homeless Should be Included in Hate Crime Laws: Vice president Montañó referred the item to the Policy & Advocacy Committee.

6.6 Update on the Issue of the Deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean: Mr. Robert Sowell reported that in a recent conversation with City of West Hollywood Councilwoman Lindsay Horvath, the councilwoman assured these items remain at the top of the Council's list and will be addressed at next City Council Meeting.

7. Commissioners' Comments/Announcements: No comments or announcements.

8. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Ellis-Royston and seconded by Commissioner Derric Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montañó
Commission Vice President-Secretary