



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Meeting of August 5, 2019  
WDACS Teamwork/Ray Bartlett Conference Room

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

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** Commission Vice President/Secretary Guadalupe Montaña presided in place of President Jarrett Barrios and called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. with a quorum of 9 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 Derric Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Sykes to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of July 1, 2019, as presented in the agenda packet. The motion carried with 8 commissioners in favor; Commissioner Porter Gilberg abstained.
- 3. President's Report:** President Barrios was absent due to a meeting of the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 4. Executive Director's Report:**
  - 4.1 Update on Hiring Trans Focused Positions and Anti-Hate Campaign:** Executive Director Robin Toma offered comments on the recent shooting incidents in the cities of El Paso, Dayton, and Gilroy. He was interviewed by Univision earlier in the day and said that the Commission and County stand with the targeted communities. This Sunday, he invited commissioners to attend a community gathering organized by the Anti-Defamation League, at which Supervisor Kathryn Barger will speak, co-sponsored by us, commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1999 shooting at the North Valley Jewish Community Center.

Separately, Human Resources reopened the Transgender community-focused and other positions to applications due to not receiving sufficient strong, qualified applicants. New applications are currently being screened to determine if they meet minimum qualifications.

Finally, the Anti Hate Campaign may now be delayed until January 2020 as a result of ongoing County negotiations with 211 LA County that involve other larger departments. Staff will be meeting with the staff of the author of the Board motion that mandated the anti-hate campaign in the coming weeks to overcome the obstacles.

**4.2 IAOHRA 2019 in Orlando, IAOHRA 2020 in LA:** The delegation to the IAOHRA 2019 conference in Orlando is selected and includes Commissioners Davidson, Ellis-Royston, and Montaña, as well as Executive Director Toma and staff member Marshall Wong. They will have the opportunity to connect with counterpart agencies across the country along with promoting the 2020 conference.

**4.3 Report Back on Staff Outreach to Schools:** Mr. Toma referred the subject of this item to items 6.1 and 6.2.

**4.4 IAOHRA Action on Human Rights of Immigrant Children:** Last week, IAOHRA and the New York City Commission on Human Rights worked on issuing an official statement on the conditions for immigrant children detained in border towns, and invited agencies to express support. President Barrios supported LACCHR signing on to the statements.

## **5. Committee Reports**

**5.1 Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations:** Committee Chair Gunning was absent. No report.

**5.2 John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson reported that the committee finalized caterers for the October event, as well as program scripting. All nominees have accepted their nominations, and most have confirmed their attendance. Additionally, the committee is considering the possibility of financial awards in the future and is soliciting Supervisor Hahn's office to support and potentially champion the idea. Further, the committee is seeking sponsors interested in supporting the work of the commission, as it weighs the prospect of monetizing the event moving forward. Sponsors and donors may choose whether their contributions are restricted to specific programming or are generally unrestricted.

**5.3 Ad Hoc IAOHRA LA 2020 Conference Committee:** Committee Chair Davidson commented that this Thursday there should be official word from IAOHRA about the 2020 conference host city bid. HelmsBriscoe consultants have assisted in narrowing potential host spaces to two or three hotels.

**5.4 Ad Hoc Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Committee Chair Montaña remarked that the committee convened and is in the process of discussing whether to add Homelessness as an extended protected class, along with related legislation. Committee members are currently seeking opposing viewpoints.

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

**6.1 Follow Up Re Noose Photo at Summerwind Elementary School (Palmdale):** Mr. Toma met recently with the school's Director of Equity and was informed that the Principal in the photo in controversy is no

longer at the school. The Director also assured that their administration is refocused on a strategic plan for equity as the incident raised many concerns within their community. The representative expressed appreciation for our offer of assistance and resources and will discuss them further with administrators.

**6.2 Paramount High School – Latino/Black Tensions (Dove):** Mr. Toma reported that he also met with Paramount High School West regarding a recent incident of violence among ethnic lines between Latinx and Black students. The school is one of the sites slated for the County’s Community Schools Initiative pilot program. Administrators there were receptive to our offer of assistance regarding human relations.

**6.3 Update on the cases of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean:** Commissioner Gilberg noted that a vigil was organized outside of Mr. Ed Buck’s home one to two weeks ago. The civil lawsuit filed by Mr. Gemmel Moore’s mother and family still continues in process.

**7. Commissioners’ Comments/Announcements:** Commissioner Johnson invited all to the first of a new Justice Speaker lecture series that he co-developed, taking place this Friday at Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences. He will send an email with more information to Grace Löwenberg to be shared with the entire commission and staff. Commissioner Montaña also shared that the Commission’s Senior Intergroup Specialist Dr. Monica Lomeli will present as part of a panel for a “White People for Black Lives: ‘Courage Against Racism’” event at Pico Union Project on August 25. Finally, the next Commission meeting will be after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

**8. Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Porter Gilberg to adjourn the meeting in memory of Mr. Toma’s mother, Mary Toma; and the victims of the recent hate violence in El Paso, Dayton, and Gilroy. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guadalupe Montaña  
Commission Vice President-Secretary

