



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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Minutes
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Committee Notes of September 6, 2011
Community and Senior Services (CSS)
3175 W. Sixth Street, Room 304 – Teamwork Room
Los Angeles, California 90020

PRESENT: Susanne Cumming Sergio Paz
Lea Ann King

ABSENT: Donna Bojarsky Adrian Dove
Rev. Zedar E. Broadous Kathay Feng
Vito Cannella William Lambert
Mario Ceballos Eleanor Montaña
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung Sandra E. Thomas
Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun

STAFF: Anahit Damlamanyan Gustavo Partida
Elena Halpert-Schilt Robert Sowell
Cherylynn Hoff Josh Tanamachi Parr
Grace Löwenberg Robin S. Toma

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Paz at 12:11p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Cumming.
2. ***Human Relations Commission's Work on Homelessness in LA County:*** PowerPoint Presentation given by Josh Tanamachi Parr, Senior Intergroup Relations Specialist.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Tabled to the October meeting due to lack of quorum.
4. **Public Comment:** No report given
5. **President's Report:** President Paz reported on the following:
 - 5.1 **Special Presentation:** Postponed to the October meeting.
 - 5.2 **Highlight on a Commissioner:** Tabled to the October meeting.

5.3 Report on International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) Conference in August: President Paz thanked the Commissioners for allowing him the opportunity to attend the IAOHRA conference. He felt empowered by the great experience he had there. He described some of the activities presented by the Human Rights experts, for example the "Metro System" where human rights issues were publicized by printing them on passenger tickets that were used for several months; and the "Movies that Matter" project that was used to bring awareness and education on certain human rights issues. Lastly, President Paz closed by stating that he is looking forward to maintaining a relationship with fellow commissioners he met from throughout the United States.

6. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Toma highlighted some of the interesting topics that were covered at the IAOHRA Conference. He shared that Karen Stevens, one of the key staff members of the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, attended. She listened and was impressed by the number and work of human and civil rights partners throughout the country. Conference attendees hope that there will be forthcoming a letter of support from United States Department of Justice to state and local governments stressing the importance of not eliminating agencies such as ours. Another highlight was meeting the new chair of the United States Civil Rights Commission, Martin R. Castro, who expressed an interest in coming to Los Angeles to talk about the Commission and meet community leaders.

6.1 Calendar of Meetings of Commission and Committees: Executive Director Toma reviewed the calendar of events and highlighted upcoming events of interest to Commissioners.

6.2 Strategic Plan Updates: Executive Director Toma highlighted the role we are playing in the AB 109 realignment and reentry efforts, given the close link between returning felons and gang members and hate violence in many several communities. He also reported on the Bricks performance that was held on August 29, 2011. Executive Director Toma was pleased to introduce two new staff members, Human Relations Consultants Gustavo Partida and Robert Sowell.

6.3 Community Corrections Partnership (CCP): Please see Section 7.2. Executive Director Toma asked the Commissioners to refer to their handouts, pages 46 and 47 of the agenda packet to review the best practices in reentry employment strategies that we have identified for the County's CCP members.

6.4 Preventing Discrimination and Prejudice regarding the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks: Executive Director Toma reported on the meeting that was held with LA Times editorial staff, which was organized by the Muslim Public Affairs Council. He hopes the results of the discussion will impact the LA Times coverage of the 9/11 Anniversary. He also mentioned that he provided talking points to Supervisor Antonovich for him to include a human relations message in his remarks on a 9/11 related resolution at the Board meeting before the anniversary. Lastly, Executive Director Toma was happy to share a letter of recommendation from the Auditor-Controller to the Board of Supervisors to extend the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations' sunset review date to September 1, 2015.

7. For Discussion/Action:

7.1 IAOHRA Resolution: Executive Director Toma included in the Commissioners' agenda packets the resolutions adopted by IAOHRA. President Paz asked the Commissioners to take some time to read them and provide feedback by the next commission meeting.

7.2 CSS Recommendations for LA County's Implementation of AB 109 on Reentry Employment Services. Executive Director Toma explained that the Commission on Human Relations was at the forefront of ensuring that the Los Angeles County Community Corrections Partnership Committee (CCP) can reduce recidivism by improving the services for formerly incarcerated people who are re-entering the community. The Commission is currently working with the Workforce Investment branch and some of their agencies to identify some of the barriers and solutions to successfully obtaining employment and/or education.

7.3 Renewal of the LAUSD contract for the W.I.N. Project at Washington Prep High School: President Paz announced the renewal (about to be finalized) of the LAUSD contract with the Human Relations Commission, Community and Senior Services Department to continue this program.

8. Committee Reports:

8.1 Ad Hoc Leadership Committee: No report

8.2 Youth Committee: No Report

8.3 Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee: No Report

8.4 Crisis Response Committee: No Report

8.5 John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations Award Committee: Commissioner Cumming announced that The Bricks are very enthusiastic about sharing emcee responsibilities at our event, and requested sponsorships for them. She thanked Commissioner Broadous for designing and printing the elegant invitation, and Commission Ceballos for his efforts in support of Kaiser Permanente's generous sponsorship of \$3,000. President Paz thanked Commissioner Cumming and her committee for all their hard work.

9. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: President Paz encouraged the Commissioners to attend the Brown Act Workshop that will be taking place on September 22, 2011.

10. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Cumming, and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne L. Cumming, Esq.

Vice-President/Secretary