



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting of May 2, 2011
Community and Senior Services (CSS)
3175 W. Sixth Street, Room 304 – Teamwork Room
Los Angeles, California 90020

PRESENT: Mario Ceballos William Lambert
 Susanne Cumming Eleanor Montañó
 Kathay Feng Sergio Paz
 Lea Ann King

ABSENT: Donna Bojarsky Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
 Rev. Zedar E. Broadous Adrian Dove
 Vito Cannella Sandra E. Thomas
 Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun

STAFF: Cynthia Banks Robin S. Toma
 Summer Brown Elena Halpert-Schilt
 Grace Löwenberg

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Commissioner Feng at 12:34 p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Paz.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Tabled for lack of quorum.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **President's Report:** Commissioner Feng filled in for President Thomas, as she was out due to surgery. Commissioner Feng then conveyed President Thomas' happiness in the fact that she noticed increased attendance in the April meeting, and sees that as a sign that Commissioners are adhering to the Code of Conduct.
 - 4.1 **Mission Statement of the HRC:** No report given due to President Thomas' absence.
 - 4.2 **Commissioner Conduct and Attendance:** No report given due to President Thomas' absence.

5. **Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Toma further echoed President Thomas' regrets for her absence due to surgery. Executive Director Toma then presented the following report:

- 5.1 **Calendar of Meetings of Commission and Committees:** Executive Director Toma reviewed the calendar of events and highlighted upcoming events of interest for the commissioners.
- 5.2 **Strategic Plan Update:** Executive Director Toma provided an update on the strategic plan. One major shift from past years will be to train in-house staff on how to execute many of the tasks related to preparing the annual Hate Crime Report, as an effort towards cost savings, and continuity within the report preparation. Executive Director Toma also stated that through the work of our staff, Washington Preparatory is offering a variety of Human Relations classes and activities. Lastly, LAUSD will decide later this year if Washington Prep will become a charter school. As updates are available Executive Director Toma will brief the Commission on what that may mean with regards to the work that is currently being done there.
- 5.3 **Statement of Economic Interest Form 700:** Executive Director Toma reminded commissioners to fill out and submit their Statement of Economic Interest Forms, as they are due to Human Resources. If commissioners need additional assistance in filling them out, they may contact Grace Löwenberg. Submissions may also be faxed to the office as long as the originals are mailed to CSS headquarters as well.

Executive Director Toma also informed the group that Independent Lens, a PBS broadcast, will be airing "Welcome to Shelbyville," a story about how a small community in Tennessee responded to a wave of Muslim immigration from Somalia set in the context of the 2008 presidential elections. Executive Director Toma stated that there is a possibility that he may be a moderator on the panel that will be on the show as well, and he will keep the Commission updated on the airing/event date scheduled for May 9, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. in Culver City. Adding to that issue, Commissioner Feng stated that she heard on the radio that the Orange County Human Relations Commission is undergoing a bit of controversy because they are honoring someone from the Muslim community. Since they are a sister organization, Commissioner Feng thinks it would be good idea to reach out to them and show our support.

6. **For Discussion**

- 6.1 **Presentation of Officer Nominations Slate/Nominations from the Floor:** Commissioner King reported on the proposed slate of officers produced by the Nominations Committee for 2011- 2012, they are as follows:

- President: Sergio Paz, 2nd District
- Vice President/Secretary: Susanne Cumming, 4th District
- Vice President: Kathay Feng, 1st District
- Vice President: William Lambert, 3rd District
- Vice President: Michael Gi-Hao Cheung, 5th District

The seven Commissioners present were polled regarding their acceptance of the proposed slate. All seven indicated support for the slate. Commissioner Feng stated that for the absent commissioners, an email would be sent to them advising them of the proposed slate and their preliminary approval by the Commission, and to request additional nominations to be submitted by May 27, 2011. Upon acceptance of the proposed slate by the entire Commission, the ballot shall be sent on June 1, 2011.

6.2 John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards: Commissioner Cumming presented the JAF 2011 nominees.

There was an informal vote taken indicating unanimous approval of the proposed nominees by all seven Commissioners present; the slate of JAF Award nominees will be recommended to the full commission for approval.

6.3 Signing of Code of Conduct for Human Relations Commissioners: Commissioner Paz passed out the revised Code of Conduct for all commissioners present to sign as acknowledgment and acceptance of the newly adopted Code of Conduct.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Ad Hoc Leadership Committee: Tabled.

7.2 Homeless Committee: Tabled.

7.3 Youth Committee: Tabled.

7.4 Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee: Tabled.

7.5 Crisis Response Committee: A written report was provided.

7.6 John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations Award Committee: Commissioner Cumming reported that the next JAF Committee meeting will be before the next Commission meeting, June 6, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.

8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: Commissioner Paz passed out notes from the April 4, 2011 Racialized Gang Violence Committee meeting. Commissioner King announced that she is working on a spreadsheet that lists vendors that may be able to provide food to youth for their various events. Executive Director Toma reminded commissioners of the upcoming Commissioners' Leadership conference on May 12, 2011. Lastly, Commissioner Ceballos expressed that he would like a formal statement to be drafted that states that although people are relieved with the news of Osama Bin Laden's death that they do not want to disrespect the Muslim community and their beliefs in any way. Executive Director Toma will submit the draft statement and send to all for input.

9. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Ceballos, and seconded by Commissioner Feng, and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:39 p.m., in memory of the 9/11 victims and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathay Feng, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary