



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California, 90020

(213) 738-2788
<http://www.lahumanrelations.org>

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Meeting of May 7, 2012
Community and Senior Services (CSS)
3175 W. Sixth Street, Room 304 – Ray Bartlett Conference/Teamwork Room
Los Angeles, California 90020

PRESENT: Rev. Zedar E. Broadous Lea Ann King
Mario Ceballos William Lambert
Susanne Cumming Eleanor Montaña
Adrian Dove Sandra E. Thomas (via telephone)
Kathay Feng

ABSENT: Donna Bojarsky Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun
Vito Cannella Bethany Leal
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung

STAFF: Anahit Damlamanyan Grace Löwenberg
Elena Halpert-Schilt Robert Sowell
Cherylynn Hoff Robin S. Toma

Guest: Natalie Champion Linda Eshoe
Mercedes Cruz

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The meeting was called to order by Acting President Feng at 12:06 p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Broadous.
2. **Special Presentation:** Linda Eshoe, Acting Director, and Mercedes Cruz, Panelist of the Los Angeles County Office on Equity Policy gave a brief background of their mission. Ms. Cruz shared that the County Equity Oversight Panel is an independent body comprised of employment law experts with the authority and responsibility for reviewing County equity investigations and making recommendations to County Department Heads concerning the disposition and discipline. The purpose of this policy is intended to preserve the dignity and professionalism of the workplace as well as to protect the right of employees to be free from discrimination, sexual harassment, unlawful harassment, retaliation and inappropriate conduct toward others based on a protected status.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Montano, and seconded by Commissioner Lambert, to approve as modified the minutes of April 2, 2012. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.
4. **Public Comment:** Natalie Champion from Strategic Counsel was in attendance to inquire about the issue regarding Compton Unified School Board Member, Skyy Fisher, who had made derogatory statements regarding Trayvon Martin. Commissioner Feng thanked Ms. Champion for coming. Commissioners discussed the matter after agenda items were covered, and appointed an Ad Hoc Committee (See 9.0 Commissioners' comments).

Commissioner King shared that she has been invited to give a prayer for children and families by Anthia Carrim, Interfaith and Educational Director, on Sunday, May 20, 2012. Commissioner Broadous expressed interest and volunteered to assist Commissioner King in this prayer.

5. **President's Report** Acting President Feng asked Commissioner Lambert to share his background as the "Highlight on a Commissioner" item.

5.1 Highlight on a Commissioner: Commissioner Lambert gave a brief description of his background and his passion for helping youth. He was an elementary school teacher for five years. During the past 43 years, Commissioner Lambert has been with the government affairs director of United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). He was the founding member of Los Angeles Teachers Association, the organization that eventually became the UTLA. He also developed various special programs to help the students of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), by arranging for a group of 10 African/Ethiopian Jews to visit predominantly black and Latino schools to share about their lives. Commissioner Lambert also became the chairman of the board of an organization called the Gemstone Foundation, which provides testing for students who may have one of three identified conditions that profoundly affect their ability to read.

6. **Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Toma presented the following report:

6.1 Strategic Plan Updates: Executive Director Toma provided an update on some of the upcoming and recent activities in furtherance of the Strategic Plan. He stated that this is a big week for human relations work at Washington Preparatory High School as the team will be presenting before the LAUSD Commission on Human Relations, Diversity and Equity on our work. He stated that this would be a great opportunity to gain their support to help us sustain the program. In addition, Executive Director Toma shared that senior staff member Gustavo Guerra Vasquez, and himself will be presenting a workshop that was selected by the 2012 Community Schools National Forum May 9-12, 2012 on the "No Haters Here" program to prevent hate crimes and bullying and to integrate human relations into LAUSD's Washington Preparatory High School.

6.2 Calendar of Meetings of Commission events, meeting and activities: Executive Director Toma called attention to the calendar of events handout and highlighted

several upcoming events that might be of particular interest to Commissioners. Lastly, he shared that staff have been assisting various Supervisorial Districts in responding to different cases, including the Lynwood City Senior Center issue from the Second District, a bullying case from the Fifth District, and the Redondo Beach issue from the Fourth District.

- 6.3 Report back on W.K. Kellogg American Healing Conference:** Executive Director Toma reported on the W.K. Kellogg American Healing Conference held April 23-28, 2012. The conference was convened in New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated that there was a huge gathering of practitioners in the racial equity work along with array of speakers and experts around the issue on implicit bias. The goal was to breathe life back into the effort to abolish structural racism, and to help American achieve strength and prosperity through racial equity. Lastly, he stated the trip was sponsored by W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

7. For Discussion/Action:

- 7.1 Presentation on Slate of Officer Nominees by Nominating Committee:** Commissioner Dove presented the slate of nominations for the 2012-13 Commission Officers. The slate presented was as follows:

- President: Kathay Feng, 1st District
- Vice President/Secretary: Lea Ann King, 4th District
- Vice President: Adrian Dove, 2nd District
- Vice President: William Lambert, 3rd District
- Vice President: Sandra E. Thomas, 5th District

All Commissioners on the slate again indicated their acceptance of their nomination. It was moved by Commissioner Broadous, and seconded by Commissioner Cumming, to accept the slate as proposed. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

- 7.2 Opportunity for any Nominations from the Floor:** No additional nominations for Officers.

Commissioner Feng asked Commissioners King and Dove to write down their recommended changes to the Bylaws and present the proposed changes at the next Commission meeting.

- 7.3 Update on John Anson Ford Trust Fund Guidelines:** In the interest of time, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

8. Committee Reports:

- 8.1 Youth Committee:** No report

- 8.2 Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee:** Commissioner Dove briefly reported on the RGVPI work that Executive Director Toma had referenced earlier in

the Strategic Plan update. He stated the team is working with the Violence Prevention Coalition of Los Angeles to facilitate the upcoming L.A. Gang Violence Prevention and Intervention Conference that will be held on May 21-22, 2012. Lastly, he expressed his appreciation of the great work staff has done and continues to do.

Commissioner Lambert suggested contacting Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce on preventing racialized gang and community violence through education. Commissioner Feng stated she will try to connect with Gary Toebben from L.A. Chamber of Commerce to speak at the next Commission meeting on their organization's work to reduce gang violence.

8.3 JAF Awards Event Committee: Commissioner Cumming graciously accepted appointment to the position of Chair of the JAF Awards Committee.

9. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: After viewing the YouTube video/sound recording of Compton Unified School Board Member Skyy Fisher's derogatory statements about Trayvon Martin and other sexist and offensive remarks, Commissioners discussed the comments and context. After extensive discussion an Ad Hoc Committee was created to develop a Commission response. Ad Hoc Committee members include:

- Mario Ceballos
- Kathay Feng
- Lea Ann King
- Sandra E. Thomas

Acting President Feng stated the Committee will meet to look into Compton Unified School District issue further and report back on recommendations or actions to be taken at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Dove reported on the upcoming groundbreaking Crenshaw Line and stated that Gloria Molina, Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Michael D. Antonovich, voted for the Crenshaw Line project.

Commissioner Ceballos shared that the Kaiser Permanente has partnered with HBO Center to show a documentary, "The Weight of the Nation" on Obesity. The documentary will be televised on HBO May 14-15, 2012.

Commissioner Thomas announced her upcoming graduation of the Bright Futures Scholars Awards Luncheon on Sunday, June 3, 2012 sponsored by Quality of Life Center. It will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Dove, and seconded by Commissioner King, to approve unanimously the adjournment of the meeting at 1:57 p.m. in memory of Richard Scott Stickney, Chief Legislative Analyst from Probation Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne L. Cumming, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary