



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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

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

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting of October 3, 2011

Community and Senior Services (CSS)

3175 W. Sixth Street, Room 304 – Ray Bartlett Conference Room/Teamwork Room
Los Angeles, California 90020

PRESENT: Susanne Cumming William Lambert
 Adrian Dove Eleanor Montaña
 Kathay Feng Sergio Paz
 Lea Ann King Sandra E. Thomas

ABSENT: Donna Bojarsky Mario Ceballos
 Rev. Zedar E. Broadous Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
 Vito Cannella Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun

STAFF: Anahit Damlamanyan Robert Sowell
 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 12:09 p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Lambert.
2. **President Paz introduced and then showed of the first 20 minutes of a powerful new 1 hour film that aired on PBS called “Light in the Darkness” by Not In Our Town, re: a community’s response to an anti-immigrant hate murder.**
3. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Cumming and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the minutes of the meetings of August 1, 2011 and September 6, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Public Comment:** None offered.
5. **President’s Report:** President Paz reported on the following:

- 5.1 Highlight on a Commissioner:** Commissioner Montaña shared a great wealth of information about herself and lifetime of community volunteer service. She has served 28 years on the Commission, over 38 years of volunteer work for the LAPD that include the Crisis Response team and hearing examiner on the Board of Rights, a disciplinary panel, and many years on the LA County Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections, of which she has been its Chairperson for the past six years.
 - 5.2 Special Presentation:** Commission President Paz and Executive Director Toma presented a five-signature scroll from the Board of Supervisors to Commissioner Dr. Sandra E. Thomas for her two years of service as President from July 2009 to June 2011.
 - 5.3 Project for Consideration:** President Paz presented a PowerPoint presentation for a new proposal "Movies That Matter" to introduce sensitive subjects to create dialogue using films that highlights important human/civil rights issues. President Paz asked for all commissioners to take the lead on the proposed project to work together as a group to present a series of films for all five supervisorial districts to build awareness and create a sense of understanding of the various issues. President Paz asked Commissioners to refer to pages 13-16 of the material in their agenda packet to get a better understanding of the proposal. The PowerPoint will be available for Commissioners to view as a template to move forward with the project.
 - 5.4 Article IX of the Commission Bylaws:** President Paz asked all Commissioners to refer to their agenda packets, page 17 articles on Bylaws, which refers to absences on the Commission meetings. President Paz instructed the Vice President/Secretary to send a letter to all affected Commissioners reminding them of their absenteeism.
- 6. Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Toma reported that Elena Halpert-Schilt will be off from work due to a family illness. He also stated that she thanks everyone and appreciates those who have communicated and supported her and her family during this difficult time.

 - 6.1 Calendar of Meetings of Commission and Committees:** Executive Director Toma called attention to the calendar of events and highlighted upcoming events of interest to Commissioners.
 - 6.2 Strategic Plan Updates:** Executive Director Toma reported that the Hate Crime report is calendared for November 17, 2011 as our release date, which we anticipate having significant findings that will be discussed at our next Commission meeting. Executive Director Toma shared that a new state law, SB 48, was passed that would seek to prevent sexual orientation discrimination in public school textbooks, and that there is now a-campaign to repeal it which is seeking to qualify for the elections balleot.
 - 6.3 AB 109 and Reentry Efforts:** Executive Director Toma asked Commissioners to refer to the memo on page 29 of their agenda packets for CSS recommendations on County's plan for the AB 109 Realignment. The memo's major points identified how to increase employment opportunities and reviewed best practices in re-entry employment strategies. He shared that CSS's Human Relations Branch and

Workforce and Community Services Branch have been working on this. He has asked that the Probation Department alert us to the release of inmates from gangs that are involved in racial targeting so we can contact our community stakeholders regarding their re-entry into the neighborhood. He stated that he will continue to report on the re-entry issue as our goal is to support county investment in helping formerly incarcerated secure jobs and education, to give them a second chance, reduce recidivism, and as a primary way of systematically reducing and preventing racialized gang violence.

- 6.4 Human Relations impact of 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks:** Executive Director Toma reported on an incident that occurred during the Anniversary of 9/11, when an Arab-American family arrived home on September 12th to find a brick thrown through their window. He noted that it was under investigation. Executive Director Toma stated that happily the Southern Asian Network and the Muslim Public Affairs Council had yet to receive reports of acts of hate.
- 6.5 Sunset Review update:** Executive Director Toma reported that Sunset Review is to be on the Board of Supervisors Agenda for October 11, 2011. The CEO supports the Audit Committee's recommendation that the Human Relations Commission continue until its next Sunset Review in September 2015.

7. For Discussion/Action:

- 7.1 HRC adoption of IAOHRA Resolutions 1, 2, 4 and 5*:** After review and discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Cumming seconded by Commissioner Lambert, and unanimously approved to adopt IAOHRA Resolutions 1, 2, 4 and 5.
- 7.2 CSS Recommendations for LA County's Implementation of AB 109 (County Probation replacing State Parole).** After review and discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Dove, seconded by Commissioner Lambert, and unanimously approved to move forward with the CSS' recommendations for LA County's Implementation of AB 109.
- 7.3 Renewal of LAUSD Contract with CSS/HRC for Human Relations elements for Safe Schools/Healthy Students "W.I.N." Project at Washington Prep High School:** After review and discussion by Commissioners, it was moved by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Cumming, and passed unanimously to approve the renewal of LAUSD contract with CSS/HRC.

8. Committee Reports:

- 8.1 Ad Hoc Leadership Committee:** No Report
- 8.2 Youth Committee:** No Report

8.3 Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee: President Paz reported that the countywide Regional Gang Violence Reduction Initiative grant was not funded.

8.4 Crisis Response Committee: No Report

8.5 John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations Award Committee: Commissioner Cumming announced the JAF event on October 11, 2011 and asked all Commissioners to arrive by 10:45 a.m. to welcome our guests and awardees. She also announced that Bricks will be the Emcees for this year's event, and discussed the Program. Lastly, President Paz thanked Commissioner Cumming and the committee for their hard work in making this event successful.

9. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: No Report

10. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner King, and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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