



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

April 27, 2016

Human Relations Commissioners

Susanne Cumming, Esq.
President

Melina Abdullah, Ph.D
Vice President/Secretary

Jarrett T. Barrios, Esq.
Donna Bojarsky
Sandra Thomas, Ph.D
Vice Presidents

Cynthia Anderson Barker, Esq.
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Adrian Dove
Isabelle Gunning, Esq.
Lea Ann King
Preeti P. Kulkarni
Daisy Ma
Eleanor Montaño
Ashlee Y. Oh

Honorary Members
Vito Cannella
Philip R. Valera

Human Relations Staff

Robin S. Toma, Esq.
Executive Director

Elena Halpert-Schilt
Assistant Executive Director

Intergroup Relations Specialists

Gustavo Guerra Vasquez
Sikivu Hutchinson
Yuisa Gimeno
Monica Lomeli
Juan Carlos Martinez
RiKu Matsuda
Josh Parr
Gustavo Partida
Ray Regalado
Fidel Rodriguez
Robert Sowell
Marshall Wong

Administrative Staff

Grace Löwenberg
Emily Pacheco
Sharon Williams

Dispute Resolution Program -----

Community and Senior Services

Cynthia Banks
Director

Otto Solorzano
Chief Deputy Director

Board of Supervisors

Hilda Solis
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Susanne Cumming, President

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting- **Monday, May 2, 2016**

Our next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2nd at 12:30-p.m., at 3175 W. Sixth Street, Teamwork Room 301, Los Angeles, California.

Enclosed is the Agenda, Draft Minutes of April 4, 2016 meeting and other pertinent information for your review and approval.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Grace Löwenberg at (213) 639-6089 no later than 9:00 a.m., **Monday, May 2nd!**

Please ensure you have your Photo ID to enter the premises or you will need to sign in the reception area/security guard. Thanks.

See you **Monday!**

(Parking is available on 523 Shatto Street, 4th and Shatto. Park on Level 3 and above.)

The Ad Hoc Committee on Policing Practices will meet prior to Commission meeting @ 11:00 am., in Teamwork Conference Room 301. Commission Members: Melina Abdullah, Chair, Cynthia Anderson Barker, Donna Bojarsky, Adrian Dove, and Isabelle Gunning. Staff: Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, Yuisa Gimeno, Josh Parr.



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations
3175 W. Sixth Street, Ste. 400, Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2788

A G E N D A

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 2, 2016 – 12:30-2:00 pm.

**Teamwork Conference Room 301/Collaboration Room 105- Community and Senior Services Building
3175 W. Sixth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020**

Our mission: to transform prejudice into acceptance, hostility into peace, and inequity into justice.

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence**
- 2. Review/Approval of Minutes**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. President's Report**
 - 4.1 Spotlight on a Commissioner
- 5. Committee Reports**
 - 5.1. Policing and Human Relations Committee Report
 - 5.2. JAF Event Committee Report
- 6. Action/Discussion Items**
 - 6.1. Election of Commission Officers FY 2016-17
 - 6.2. Support of Board Motion re: Opposition to Gender Identity Discrimination
 - 6.3 Participation in Transform California Campaign
 - 6.4 Funding Commissioners attendance to Liberty Hill Workshop

Recess at 1:00 pm. Meeting resumes at 1:05 in 1st Floor Collaboration Room 105

 - 6.5 Recommendation on Hindenburg Park Sign
- 7. Executive Director's Report**
 - 7.1 Government Alliance for Race and Equity Update
- 8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements (2 minutes per item)**
- 9. Adjournment (2:00)**

Note: The following Commissioner will be participating by conference telephone communication from the following locations: Sandra Thomas, 3544 Canon Blvd., Altadena, CA 91001, (626) 399-5007.

Para mas información en español, favor de comunicarse al (213) 738-2788.

* Denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.

** All committee reports are to be submitted in writing in advance for the agenda packet whenever possible. Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at (213) 738-2788 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Human Relations Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities. Access to the facility is via the Sixth Street entrance.



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California, 90020
<http://www.lahumanrelations.org>

(213) 738-2788

[DRAFT] MINUTES COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Commission Meeting of April 4, 2016
Community and Senior Services (CSS)

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

PRESENT:	Melina Abdullah	Preeti Kulkarni
	Cynthia Anderson-Barker	Daisy Ma
	Jarrett Tomas Barrios	Eleanor Montaña
	Susanne Cumming	Sandra Thomas (by telephone)
	Adrian Dove	Ashlee Oh
	Lea Ann King	
ABSENT:	Donna Bojarsky	Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
	Isabelle Gunning	
STAFF:	Robin Toma	Elena Halpert-Schilt
	Gustavo Guerra Vasquez	Robert Sowell
	Grace Löwenberg	Emily Pacheco

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** A quorum of the Commission was established at 12:30 p.m. President Cumming called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Oh led the pledge of allegiance. Eleven members were in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner King, and seconded by Commissioner Barrios, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting held on March 7, 2016. The motion carried with 8 Commissioners voting in favor, and two abstentions (Ma and Dove).
3. **Public Comment:** No public comment was submitted.
4. **President's Report:**
 - 4.1 **Spotlight on a Commissioner:** Commission President Cumming informed the Commission that during the next few meetings "Spotlight on a Commissioner" will be included in the President's Report. Commissioner Oh will be featured during the May meeting, and Commissioner Gunning will be featured during the June meeting.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1 Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee:** This item was addressed in Action/Discussion item 6.1.
- 5.2 Policing and Human Relations Committee Report:** This item will be addressed at the May Commission meeting.
- 5.3 JAF Event Committee Report:** Letters have been delivered to the Supervisors formally submitting the nominees for each supervisorial district awards. The first, fourth, and fifth districts have approved their nominees, and staff awaits word from the second and third districts.
- 5.4 Nominations Committee Report—Presentation of Slate:** Commissioner Barrios, as chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the committee's slate of officers for FY 2016-17, which it prepared and forwarded to the Commission for consideration. Additional nominations were requested from the floor, and none were received. The slate as presented will be voted on during the May meeting. The slate included the following:
- **1st District:**
VP - Jarrett Tomas Barrios
 - **2nd District:**
VP - Melina Abdullah
 - **3rd District:**
President - Isabelle Gunning
 - **4th District:**
VP/Secretary - Lea Ann King
 - **5th District:**
VP - Sandra Thomas

The slate of nominees will be sent to all Commissioners at least one week in advance of the meeting.

6. Action/Discussion Items:

- 6.1 Strategic Plan Priorities and Goals FY 2016-19:** Preeti Kulkarni presented the strategic plan, and the work that the ad hoc committee did in reviewing the plan: staff worked on the plan throughout the last year and two ad hoc Commission committee meetings were held to review the proposed plan. The priority areas remain the same.

Executive Director Toma provided a document that indicated the various sources of information that helped inform the development of the strategic plan. These sources included the priorities of the Board of Supervisors, the Hate Crime Report, and human rights/relations agencies. It was emphasized that this plan is flexible, and intended to be

responsive as conditions change. Also shared with the Commission was a description of the roles and responsibilities of both Commissioners and staff in the strategic plan and day-to-day work.

After a detailed presentation on the mission, vision, values/guiding principles, and each priority area and goals of the proposed strategic planning, and following extensive discussion on each of the various priorities, goals, activities, outcomes, measures, and work plans, the Commission voted to approve the presented strategic plan with some additions.

Commissioner Abdullah requested that Strategic Priority 2 include a parenthetical to include “including but not limited to oppression and repression based on race, class and other protected characteristics.”

Commissioner Barrios requested that “pursuant to the Commission conducting due diligence in the human relations aspects of L.A. County’s criminal justice system” begin Strategic Priority 2.

It was moved by Commissioner Anderson-Barker, and seconded by Commissioner Dove, to approve Strategic Priority 2 as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner Kulkarni, and seconded by Commissioner Barrios, to approve the draft Human Relations Commission Strategic Plan for 2016-2019, as amended. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following priorities and goals were approved as the strategic plan for the period of July 2016- June 2019:

1. Promote Youth Human Relations Leadership
 - a. Between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2019, increase by at least 25% the number of youth impacted by youth-led human relations change efforts we have facilitated, in comparison to the number impacted between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2016.
 - b. Between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2019, at least 60 diverse youth from different parts of the County will become leaders by having participated in leading human relations change efforts after having completed intensive leadership development experiences we helped to design and deliver.
2. Increase Fairness and Equity in the L.A. County’s Criminal Justice Systems
 - a. Pursuant to the Commission conducting due diligence in the human relations aspects of L.A. County’s criminal justice system, achieve a major system reform to produce more equitable treatment in L.A. county criminal justice systems for at least three groups, at least one of which is affected by sex-trafficking of minors, at least one of which is affected by policing inequity (including but not limited to oppression and repression based on race, class and other protected characteristics), and which may be affected by other selected issues of fairness.
3. Strengthen Effective Hate Crime Prevention and Response

- a. Strengthen and expand access to Hate Crime prevention, education, documentation, and/or response resources with at least three populations that are targeted for hate crime in L.A. County as indicated in our annual hate crime report.
4. Improve the Organizational Effectiveness of the Human Relations Commission
 - a. Create and implement a sustainable and continuous strategic learning process for staff and commissioners in order to advance their human relations expertise.
 - b. Strengthen and expand network of stakeholders by increasing the scope and frequency of communications with partners and constituents.
 - c. Improve the quality of LACCHR's response to requests for assistance from all constituents including: Board of Supervisors, CEO, Commissioners, Department executives, partners, organizations, constituents and other stakeholders by establishing criteria to prioritize requests and developing and implementing systems and procedures to address priority requests.

7. **Executive Director's Report:**

7.1 Public Hearing on Hindenburg Park Sign: Executive Director Toma informed the Commission that Commissioners Cumming, Thomas, and Gunning will be the hearing officers on the "Hindenburg Park Sign" scheduled for April 7, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Sparr Heights Community Center in Glendale. The hearing and the Hindenburg Sign has been mentioned in many news outlets, including the L.A. Times.

7.2 Government Alliance for Race and Equity: Due to time constraints this time will be addressed at a future meeting.

8. **Commissioner's Comments/Announcements:** Commissioner King shared photos from the "Visions of Unity" Arts Contest which was held on March 28.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m. in memory of Don Nakanishi, UCLA Emeritus Professor and Pioneer in Asian American Studies; Bill Rosendahl, former LA City Councilmember; Wakiesha Wilson, died while in custody of the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department on April 29, 2016 (Easter Sunday; and the 48th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr..

Respectfully submitted,

Melina Abdullah
Commission Vice-President Secretary



Los Angeles County

Commission on Human Relations

Department of Community and Senior Services
3175 West Sixth Street, Suite 406
Los Angeles, CA 90020

(213) 738-2788

Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations

Meeting Notice

Monday, May 2, 2016
11:00 a.m.

Department of Community and Senior Services
3175 West Sixth Street, Vision Room 301
Los Angeles, California 90020

Members: Commissioners Melina Abdullah (Chair), Cynthia Anderson
Barker, Donna Bojarsky, Adrian Dove, Isabelle Gunning
Staff: Robin Toma, Yuisa Gimeno, Joshua Parr, Robert Sowell

AGENDA

1. Roles and Responsibilities
2. Review of Purposes and Desired Outcomes

Purposes

- Increase the Fairness and Equity of Criminal Justice Systems in LA County by:
 - Identifying issues and solutions in LA County, and highlighting best practices for fair and equitable policing
 - Changing policing policy and practice in LA County to increase fairness and equity
- Demonstrate the value of LA County's Commission on Human Relations by:
 - Explaining that disproportionately inequitable targeting of certain communities by law enforcement fosters tension and even conflict between communities
 - Emphasizing that violation of basic human rights fosters unhealthy, antagonistic, hostile human relations
 - Taking innovative approaches to ensure implementation of one or more key reforms that will be achieved leading to more equitable policing in LA County

Para mayor información, por favor comuníquese al (213) 738-2788. Las reuniones se llevan a cabo en inglés; sin embargo interpretación a otros idiomas está disponible. Si la necesita, por favor póngase en contacto con la comisión con la mayor anticipación a la fecha de la reunión que sea posible. Si se necesitan acomodaciones para personas con diferentes capacidades, por favor póngase en contacto con la comisión al (213) 738-2788 lo más pronto posible.

Desired Outcomes

- Measurable change in policing policy and practice, including accountability through tracked changes
 - Improved protocols for collecting and disseminating data for accountability
 - Identify effects of Implicit Bias in police in use-of-force and other situations impacting community trust
 - Video and audio recordings from which we can take clips for use in awareness-raising efforts; this also could be useful in sessions with community members and groups after the hearings
 - Specific items for additional funding for the Commission
3. Review of Notes from March 7 Meeting
 4. Overview of Policy Reform Process
 5. Revised Proposal for LACCHR-Sponsored Public Hearings on Policing and Human Relations in LA County



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

April 18, 2016

Human Relations Commissioners

Susanne Cumming, Esq.
President

Melina Abdullah, Ph.D
Vice President/Secretary

Jarrett T. Barrios, Esq.
Donna Bojarsky
Sandra Thomas, Ph.D
Vice Presidents

Cynthia Anderson Barker, Esq.
Jarrett T. Barrios, Esq.
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Adrian Dove
Isabelle Gunning, Esq.
Lea Ann King
Preeti P. Kulkarni
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Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

MEMORANDUM TO COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Robin S. Toma
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Election of Commission Officers

Per Article VI of the Commission Bylaws, below is the list of nominees for Commission Officers for fiscal year 2016-2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017).

The list below reflects the slate of officer nominees presented by the Nominations Committee and accepted by those commissioners present at the April 4, 2016 meeting. No additional nominations were submitted at the meeting.

President: Isabelle Gunning (Third District)

Vice Presidents: Jarrett Thomas Barrios (First District)
Melina Abdullah (Second District)
Sandra Thomas (Fifth District)

Vice President/Secretary: Lea Ann King (Fourth District)

Elections will be held at our next Commission meeting on **Monday, May 2, 2016** at 12:30 pm.

gl

Enclosure: Ballot (See Reverse Side)



BALLOT

Commission Officers

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

PRESIDENT (Vote for 1)	Isabelle Gunning (Third District)	<input type="checkbox"/>
VICE PRESIDENTS (Vote for 3)	Jarrett T. Barrios (First District)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Melina Abdullah (Second District)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sandra Thomas (Fifth District)	<input type="checkbox"/>
VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY (Vote for 1)	Lea Ann King (Fourth District)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REVISED MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS AND
SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL**

April 26, 2016

Opposition to Gender Identity Discrimination

On March 23, 2016, the North Carolina House of Representatives passed House Bill 2, called The Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2"). Passed in response to a local ordinance that permitted transgender individuals to use the public bathrooms of the sex with which they identify. In addition, the bill more broadly precludes local governments from passing anti-discrimination laws to protect a range of groups.

Last October, this Board voted unanimously to stand up for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth in the Los Angeles County child welfare system by proactively training County workers to more fully address the unique needs of these children. HB2 requires us to stand up again, in solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority recently cancelled its participation in a national conference in North Carolina, expressing their opposition to the law.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board

Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to:

1. Suspend all travel to the State of North Carolina for the conduct of County business unless the Chief Executive Officer determines that the failure to authorize such travel would seriously harm the County's interests; this ban is to be lifted upon the suspension or repeal of HB2; and

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

SOLIS _____

2. Send a 5-signature letter to the Governor of North Carolina and to the North Carolina Assembly and Senate communicating the County's ban and calling for the immediate repeal of this legislation; and
3. Report back in 60 days, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, with recommendations regarding an inventory of any current County policies that should be updated to reflect current legal standards with respect to discriminate on the basis of gender identity or gender expression, including the provision of All-Gender Restrooms, and recommendations, if any, for revising changing these policies to be more inclusive and honoring of LGBTQ individuals.

#

HLS:bp
SK:sg

LA County Approves North Carolina Travel Boycott Due to Restroom Law

The motion also calls for the board members to sign a letter to the governor and legislators in North Carolina calling for the repeal of a controversial restroom law

By **City News Service**

NBC Bay Area

File photo of gender-neutral restroom signs.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors joined a growing boycott of North Carolina in response to a law viewed by many as discriminatory.

Board Chair Hilda Solis and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl asked colleagues to adopt a motion that would suspend all official county travel to the state of North Carolina "unless the chief executive officer determines that the failure to authorize such travel would seriously harm the county's interests."

- **Students, Protesters Clash Over Gender-Neutral Restrooms**

The motion, approved in a 4-1 vote, also calls for the board members to sign a letter to the governor and legislators in North Carolina calling for the repeal of the law, known as HB2. Among other things, the law requires transgender people to use public restrooms that match the sex designation on their birth certificate, and not the gender with which they identify.

"Last October, this board voted unanimously to stand up for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth in the Los Angeles County child welfare system by proactively training county workers to more fully address the unique needs of these children," according to the motion by Solis and Kuehl. "HB2 requires us to stand up again, in solidarity with the LGBTQ community."



The motion also asks that its staff report back in 60 days on any county policies that could be in need of updating to reflect legal standards relating to gender identity or expression, "including the provision of all- gender restrooms."

Advocates applauded the move, saying that North Carolina's legislation falsely depicts transgender people as predators when they are instead the victims of predators.

- **N.C. 'Bathroom Bill' Back In The Spotlight**

"Transpeople matter. Transpeople deserve to be safe," activist Drian Juarez told the board.

Marianna Marroquin of the Los Angeles LGBT Center thanked the board, but said she was frustrated that HB2 forced her to "fight for the right to use a bathroom, when so many other important things are happening."

- **Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato Cancel NC Shows**

One young man instead urged the board to "honor traditional family values," saying that the open use of restrooms would create "a lot of confusion, leaving a lot of space for crime."

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas disagreed.

- **SpaceX: A Dragon on Mars By 2018**

"HB2 and measures like it are often framed as protective ... (but are) anything but protective," Ridley-Thomas said, calling them "vehicles to instill fear and hate" that often lead to violence.

Published at 6:56 AM PDT on Apr 26, 2016

From: Preeti Kulkarni [<mailto:pkulkarni@libertyhill.org>]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 3:57 PM

To: adrian.dove@gmail.com; ashleeyoh@gmail.com; cablaw@hotmail.com; madaisy3@gmail.com; bojarsky@earthlink.net; askgunning@aol.com; jarrett.barrios@redcross.org; Johanna.Bonillo@redcross.org; leaannking@earthlink.net; mabdull2@exchange.calstatela.edu; michaelcheung1011@gmail.com; Preeti Kulkarni; sandraethomas1@gmail.com; cumming@earthlink.net; Robin Toma

Subject: Liberty Hill's 2016 Summit: Advancing Change in Los Angeles

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

I wanted to personally invite you to the Liberty Hill 2016 Advance Change in LA County Summit! This year's Summit will focus on Los Angeles County's appointed public commissions and local governance and is designed for community leaders across sectors and issue areas interested in learning how these county entities play a role in shaping our community. I hope you can make it as we try to be strategic in building alliances with community members.

Thanks,

Preeti P. Kulkarni
Chief Operating Officer
(323) 556-7230



The Liberty Hill Commissions Training Program ensures that Los Angeles has strong leadership making equitable decisions for all communities. The program trains community leaders to become advocates within local government structures and readies them to serve on city boards and commissions.

The Commissions Program is a project of the **Liberty Hill Wally Marks Leadership Institute** ([/wally-marks-leadership-institute-change](http://wally-marks-leadership-institute-change)), an intensive, on-the-job, hands-on training program that dramatically accelerates organizational capacity and effectiveness for changemakers in Los Angeles.

Photo by Warren Hill

2016 Summit: Advancing Change in Los Angeles County - Speaker Lineup Announced!

May 13, 2016

9 am - 4 pm

Have you ever wished for the opportunity to better understand how county governance impacts equity and social justice movements in the region? Are you interested in learning how board and commission service can be an avenue for change?

Liberty Hill Foundation is launching its 2016 Commissions Training Program on **Friday, May 13th, from 9 am - 4 pm**. This year's Summit will focus on Los Angeles County's appointed public commissions and local governance and is designed for community leaders across sectors and issue areas interested in learning how these county entities play a role in shaping our community. Sessions will be led by well known county leaders and advocates who have served on county commissions, worked with county elected officials, led social justice campaigns, and staffed county agencies. Former commissioners will discuss setting priorities and what opportunities are possible through decision making as a new commissioner. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to network with those who have significant knowledge about the appointment process and Los Angeles County governance, and will gain a broad understanding of the landscape of social issues within the region.

Location: St. Anne's Conference Center
155 N. Occidental Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Agenda for the Day

The Los Angeles County Commission Landscape and Strategies for Equity
Laurie Jones Neighbors, Movement and Leadership Strategist, Public Sector
Commissions

What's at Stake in the Los Angeles Region?
Joan Ling, Lecturer at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs,
in conversation with Jennifer Epps Addison, Chief Program Officer at Liberty Hill
Foundation

County 101 Training
Torie Osborn, Principal Deputy for Policy and Strategy, Office of Supervisory Sheila
Kuehl,
in conversation with Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle

Seizing the Moment: Affordable Housing and the Homelessness Crisis
*Yolanda Vera, Senior Deputy for Health Advocacy and Chief Counsel, Office of
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas*
Additional Panelists TBD

Register by April 29 to reserve your spot! (<http://goo.gl/forms/8Rgf8BbbzZ>)

The cost to participate is \$150. Once you have registered, you have until **May 6** to make the tuition payment. A limited number of scholarships are available and offered on a rolling basis. In order to be eligible for scholarship, you must be employed by a nonprofit organization and demonstrate a financial need. Partial or full scholarships may be offered. The application form can be found on the second page of the online registration form.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Lin at mmlin@libertyhill.org (<mailto:mmlin@libertyhill.org>) or (323)556-7206.



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County 101 Training
Torie Osborn, Principal Deputy for Policy and Strategy, Office of Supervisory Sheila Kuehl,
in conversation with Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle



Los Angeles County

Commission on Human Relations

Community and Senior Services
3175 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, California 90020

May 2, 2016

TO: COMMISSIONERS

FROM: ROBIN S. TOMA

**ON AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION: DRAFT PROPOSED MOTION ON
HINDENBURG SIGN**

Proposed Motion: That based upon the information presented at the public hearing on the “Hindenburg Park” sign recently placed by the County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Rec) at the County’s Crescenta Valley Park and subsequent public comment received by our Commission, our Commission recommends to Parks and Rec (1) removal of the recently placed Hindenburg Park sign; (2) placement of a new sign which honors the German American heritage of that section of the park without reference to the name “Hindenburg”; (3) convening of an ad hoc community task force comprised of representatives of the community and Parks and Rec and facilitated by an accepted neutral mediator (which the Commission offers to assist in identifying) that would be given 30 days to develop the design of a new sign (including new language) and include a succinct history of the park that educates the community about the positive and less positive events at the park during its history; and (4) Parks and Rec would have final approval of the sign and would pay for the creation and installation of the new sign which commemorates the German American heritage of the park without re-establishing the name “Hindenburg Park.”

To understand the reasons for this motion and its specific proposals, set forth below are the events and process which led to the public hearing and the submission of information by members of the public and Parks and Rec at that hearing.

Following that, this memo presents the findings and analysis which are the basis for this proposed motion.

Events and Process Leading to the Public Hearing and this Motion

On March 1, 2016, the L.A. County Parks and Recreation (Parks and Rec) at the suggestion of the 5th Supervisorial District staff contacted the Executive Director of our Commission to request assistance in addressing complaints received by the Department about the “Hindenburg Park” sign recently placed at the entrance to one part of the County’s Crescenta Valley Park (CV Park). The complaints, which will be set forth in the findings below, alleged the Hindenburg Park sign (see image below) to be extremely offensive

because of Hindenburg's role as the President of Germany's Weimar Republic who appointed Adolf Hitler to the position of Chancellor of Germany and other actions which lead to the takeover of the German national government by the Nazi Party. Complaints also alleged that Hindenburg was a famed leader of Germany's military during World War One, in which Germany waged war against a group of nations that included the U.S., and thus was disrespectful of U.S. soldiers who were killed or injured by Hindenburg's military leadership. Responses by the organization that advocated and fundraised for the sign stated that their intent was not that, but to recognize the history of that portion of the park, which was previously named Hindenburg Park prior to it being sold to the County to become part of Crescenta Valley Park.

On March 7, 2016, at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting, our Commission received information regarding this request for assistance, and voted to agree to assist Parks and Rec in handling this controversy, as it fell within our jurisdiction and capacity to address.

Between March 7 and March 22, Parks and Rec informed us that the main parties to the controversy were not willing to participate in a mediation at this time, and that both sides wanted an opportunity to be heard publicly on this issue.

On April 7, 2016, our Commission held a duly noticed public hearing at the Sparr Heights Community Center (Glendale City facility), near CV Park, to receive the views, opinions and information from any member of the public. Commissioner Sandra Thomas served as chair, accompanied by Commissioners Susanne Cumming and Isabelle Gunning. An estimated 120 people were in attendance, and 47 persons spoke on the question of whether the Hindenburg Park sign should or should not be removed and why. The hearing lasted approximately two hours and 20 minutes, so that all persons requesting to speak could be given the opportunity to be heard. Staff commends Commissioners Thomas, Cumming and Gunning, noting that they had to commit a substantial amount of time for the hearing, and they conducted themselves in a manner consistent with our efforts to ensure it was a fair and impartial hearing.

Findings and Analysis

Having heard and reviewed the multitude of public comments provided at the public hearing, which includes all correspondence sent to Parks and Rec on this matter (which Parks and Rec has stated includes any correspondence sent to Supervisor Antonovich's office, who represents the district in which CV Park and the Hindenburg Park sign are located), we find as follows:

1. Paul Von Hindenburg was a famed general in Germany's military forces during World War I (1914-1917). During the democratic era of the Weimar Republic (1917-1933), Hindenburg was elected President of Germany in 1925 and appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of Germany in 1933. Hindenburg was never a member of the Nazi Party. He granted special powers to Chancellor Hitler shortly before passing away in 1934. Soon thereafter, Hitler and the Nazi Party engaged in actions to take total control of Germany's government, leading to brutal repression against all of its political opponents, the exaltation of a racially pure "Aryan" nation, and a campaign of military aggression against other countries that led to World War II in 1940, and the

Holocaust, which was the official scapegoating, accompanying dehumanization, and attempted genocide of the Jewish people throughout Europe.

2. The portion of CV Park which is marked by the “Hindenburg Park” was originally named such to honor the popular President of Germany shortly after his death in 1934, by the private owners of the property who regularly gathered there for social and cultural events by members of the German American community.
3. During the time which this portion of CV Park was privately owned, a large bust of Hindenburg was placed there, as well as a bust of famous German composer Ludwig Van Beethoven. Both busts were removed when the park sold to the County in 1957 or 1958.
4. There are two other markers which reference Hindenburg inside that section of CV Park: (1) one plaque on a large rock that references the history of the German American community role in that part of the park (see photo below), and (2) another which is a larger display board that describes in words and pictures the history of that section of the park.
5. In February 2015, a group called the Tricentennial Foundation requested to create and place a new sign at the main vehicle entrance of that section of the park. The original proposal was that the sign would say “Willkommen, Welcome To the Historic German Section of Crescenta Valley Park, Hindenberg Park (County Seals Below, and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation).
6. In response, Parks and Rec asked the Tricentennial Foundation representative Hans Eberhard to obtain community support for the park.
7. Mr. Eberhard obtained the support from the Crescenta Valley Town Council, the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce, and other groups. The Tricentennial Foundation also raised and provided the funding for the sign’s production costs.
8. In February 2016, Parks and Rec installed the Hindenburg Park sign at CV Park, having modified the design of the sign in consultation with the Tricentennial Foundation.
9. Since the sign was installed, Parks and Rec has heard from several community members who are not supportive of the sign and have asked about a process to have the sign removed, according to the testimony of the Parks and Rec historian.
10. The complaints about the sign are that it appears to rename the park “Hindenburg Park” and Paul von Hindenburg was a military leader of Germany during World War I, a prominent political figure in Germany from the late 1920s to the early 1930s, and appointed Nazi Party leader Adolf Hitler to the leader of Germany’s government in 1933. As is well known, Hitler and the Nazi Party gradually seized total control of the German government, calling itself The Third Reich. In Germany and those countries it had taken over, the Nazi government carried out the horrific attempt at genocide of the Jewish people, killing over 6 million Jews in what is known today as the Holocaust. Hitler proceeded to wage war on nearby countries, and allying itself with

Japan and Italy, launch World War II which led to the death of millions of people around the world, including millions of Americans. Today, Nazism and its openly racist philosophy lives on in neo-Nazi and white supremacist organizations that have carried out hate violence in the U.S., including in L.A. County, as is documented in the Commission's annual reports on hate crime in our county.

11. Despite the complex nature of Hindenburg's role in history, it was noted by one speaker that it would be difficult to find any similar honor of Paul von Hindenburg today in Germany, given the recognition of his historical role in the rise of the Nazi regime.
12. It is documented that while the majority of activities in Hindenburg Park historically were of a social and cultural nature, as many public comments referenced, there was also documentation presented in the form of newspaper stories and photos of rallies there by the Bund, a German American political organization which openly supported the Nazis in the 1930s and 1940s.
13. Today, Los Angeles County is home to the second largest community of Americans of Jewish ancestry and faith in the U.S. Among them are survivors of Nazi Germany's holocaust, and many are children and grandchildren of those survivors. Given Nazism's philosophy of racial superiority, it is not only Jews who are deeply offended by Nazism: African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and virtually anyone who considers themselves as non-white abhor Hitler and Nazism.
14. As acknowledged by some opponents of the sign, we find that the Hindenburg sign in question was posted without any ill-intent, and it is appropriate to recognize the history of the park, its German American roots, and its importance to the local community.
15. The erection of the Hindenburg Park sign in such a prominent place gives the erroneous impression that Crescenta Valley Park has been renamed "Hindenburg Park", and has understandably given public perception of a renewed attention and spotlight on the historical name of this portion of the park.
16. There is understandable concern that to place such a prominent sign today at the entrance of this section of the park is not merely a historical reference. It elevates the park's historical name Hindenburg Park, despite what Hindenburg represents for many today. To continue to do so is akin to newly placing the Confederate flag at government buildings in the south as a commemoration of the past, ignoring that it conveys the glorification of a slave society.
17. The historical name of Hindenburg Park is already commemorated in two significant places in the park, and therefore does not need to be the focus of another sign, and a prominent one at that, at the main vehicular entrance to this section of the park.
18. First, there is a sizable educational plaque (approximately 5 feet wide by 2 feet high) inside the park which is titled "Hindenburg Park." This display plaque includes text, photos and drawings to explain the history of the park, who Hindenburg was, German

American cultural and community activities that occurred in the park, and an architectural drawing of the layout of the park as it was.

19. There is also a smaller bronze plaque that is titled "Hindenburg Park" that is on a large boulder placed to the left as you enter this part of CV park after crossing the concrete-encased wash.
20. The German American heritage of the park and its meaning for that community can be honored and commemorated with a reference to "Welcome to the Historic German Section of Crescenta Valley Park," which was part of the original proposal, or other similar language, but need not reference Hindenburg.
21. A new sign could also utilize the rear portion of the sign as an educational experience that conveys a balanced historical view of the park, including the cultural community gatherings as well as the pro-Nazi rallies and the present controversy, so that we are reminded of a part of our history which by remembering, we are warned against repeating today.
22. Therefore, based upon the information presented at the public hearing on the "Hindenburg Park" sign recently placed by the County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Rec) at the County's Crescenta Valley Park and subsequent public comment received by our Commission, our Commission recommends to Parks and Rec the following:
 - a. Immediate removal of the recently placed Hindenburg Park sign;
 - b. Placement of a new sign which honors the German American heritage of that section of the park without reference to the name "Hindenburg";
 - c. Convening of an ad hoc community task force comprised of representatives of the community and Parks and Rec and facilitated by an accepted neutral mediator (which the Commission offers to assist in identifying) that would be given 30 days to develop the design of a new sign (including new language) and include a succinct history of the park that educates the community about the positive and less positive events at the park during its history; and
 - d. Parks and Rec would have final approval of the sign and would pay for the creation and installation of the new sign which commemorates the German American heritage of the park without re-establishing the name "Hindenburg Park."

We invite the Commissioners to discuss this proposed motion, refer to the video of the testimony at the public hearing and submitted materials, and decide on any changes that we can present to the County Department of Parks and Recreation.