



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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MINUTES

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Commission Meeting of April 6, 2015

Community and Senior Services (CSS)

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

PRESENT: Melina Abdullah
Donna Bojarsky
Zedar E. Broadous
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Susanne Cumming
Adrian Dove
Lea Ann King
William Lambert
Eleanor Montaña
Sandra Thomas (By Telephone)

ABSENT: Mario Ceballos
Kathay Feng

GUESTS: Professor David Kaye, UC Irvine Law School
Steven Kim, Law Student
Pok Man Lee, Law Student
Claire Stanley, Law Student

STAFF: Robin S. Toma
Elena Halpert-Schilt
Grace Löwenberg
Emily Pacheco

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** A quorum of the Commission was established with eight members present (Abdullah, Bojarsky, Cumming, Dove, King, Lambert, Montaña, Thomas). President Cumming called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m. Commissioner Lambert led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioners Broadous and Cheung arrived shortly after the start of the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, the President of the Commission requested that action items be discussed first, in consideration of a lengthy agenda and planned presentations.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, and seconded by Commissioner King, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting held on February 2, 2015. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.
3. **Public Comment:** Ara Khachatourian, from the Asbarez Armenian News, provided information on the observation of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. There will be a March for Justice held on April 24, 2015. Mr. Khachatourian also provided a flyer for the event.

4. President's Report:

- 4.1** Commission President Susanne Cumming provided a brief report which included the announcement of the upcoming recognition of the Commissions' Network Against Hate Crime by the District Attorney's office. The Network will be recognized at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, April 14, as well as at the Victim's Rights Symposium & Recognition Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2015.
- 4.2** President Cumming also indicated that the Executive Director will draft a letter requesting a meeting with the new Supervisors.

This concluded the President's report.

- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Following the consideration of discussion/actions items, the Executive Director provided his monthly report. He included a brief update on the status of the Commission's efforts to eliminate sex trafficking of children in the County, and indicated that a final report for the year would be provided at a future Commission meeting. Executive Director Toma also announced the recent departure of Anthony Massengale, staff member to the Commission, who will transfer to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act division of the Department, where he will continue to work to ensure human rights for all residents of the County of Los Angeles.

Following Mr. Toma's report, the University of California Irvine Law School Professor David Kaye and law students Steven Kim, Pok Man Lee, and Claire Stanley, presented a research project on the state of human rights in the County of Los Angeles. The presentation provided a preliminary report, with a final report expected in May. Discussion took place regarding the release of the report. The Executive Director will continue to keep the Commission informed and updated on the completion of this report.

6. For Discussion/Action:

- 6.1 Establishment of Nominating Committee:** The Commissioners were provided with an excerpt from the bylaws pertaining to the election of new officers, and the establishment of a nominating committee.

A motion was approved, in accordance with the bylaws, to:

Establish the Nominations Committee to be comprised of the following Commissioners:

1st Dist: Commissioner Kathay Feng

2nd Dist: Commissioner Adrian Dove

3rd Dist: Commissioner Rev. Zedar E. Broadous

4th Dist: Commissioner Lea Ann King

5th Dist: Commissioner Michael Gi-Hao Cheung;

To instruct the Nominations Committee to meet prior to the next Commission meeting to develop a slate of nominees for the following 5 positions: Commission President; Commission Vice-President/Secretary; three (3) Vice Presidents;

To present such slate to the Commission at the next meeting of the Commission, and to take any nominations, if any, from the floor at that meeting; and

To conduct the elections for Commission officers, from among the nominees (including nominations made from the floor), at the June 1st meeting of the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Lambert, and seconded by Commissioner Montañó, to approve the motion as published above. The motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Cheung not present during the vote.

6.2 Selection Criteria for Institutional Home for LACCHR Historical Materials: The commissioners reviewed recommended criteria for selecting a location to house the Commission's historical materials.

The following was approved and ratified to be used in the selection of the institution that will be housing the Commission's historical materials:

1. The institution's interest in having the Commission's materials
2. Reputation of the institution consistent with LACCHR and its mission and charge
3. Relevance/location of the institution
4. Quality of the facilities in which the materials will be stored (storage facilities)
5. Quality of the facilities in which the materials will be accessed (Special Collections reviewing rooms)
6. Other measures taken to protect the historical materials (who can access them, what level of credentials, are they supervised when reviewing them, etc.)
7. Level of resources willing to commit to make the collection as widely accessible to those who would legitimately seek use of it (through digitization of materials, ease of access to the materials)
8. Level of resources willing to commit to promote awareness and use of the collection
9. Any other advantages for, or benefits to, the Commission (e.g., faculty or students who'll present to Commission members and staff about valuable insights for current issues drawn from the historical materials)

It was moved by Commissioner Bojarsky, and seconded by Commissioner King, to approve the motion as published above. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. There were no abstentions.

6.3 Recent Anti-Gay Ballot Initiative: After receiving an update from the Executive Director on the recent anti-gay ballot initiative, the Commission discussed how we can most wisely address this issue. Further discussion on this item was tabled without objection until the May Commission meeting.

7. **Committee Reports:** The agenda to the most recent Youth Diversity Committee meeting was included in the agenda packet, as well as a flyer detailing the purpose and key principles of the Youth Human Relations Leadership Development Initiative.
8. **Commissioner's Comments/Announcements:** In consideration of time, Commissioners reserved their comments until a future meeting.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m. in memory of Cesar Chavez, American farm worker and civil rights activist; the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; Eugene S. Mornell, former Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations; Florence Canella; Dori J. Maynard; Anne Moody, Civil Rights Activist; and Mrs. Lillian Nakano, Interned Japanese American, WWII.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Susanne Cumming