Los Angeles County
Commission on Human Relations

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Los Angeles, California, 90012
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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MEETING OF
JANUARY 5, 2009

Ray W. Bartlett Conference Room, Suite 1184
320 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

PRESENT:	Felipe Agredano	Lea Ann King
	Tong Suk Chun	Eleanor Montaño
	Susanne Cumming	Sergio Paz
	Adrian Dove	Sandra E. Thomas
NOT PRESENT:	Donna Bojarsky	Kathay Feng
	Zedar E. Broadous	William Lambert
	Vito Cannella	John Wuo
	Mario Ceballos	
STAFF:	Robin Toma	Elena Halpert-Schilt
	Richard Verches	Grace Löwenberg
GUESTS:	None	

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence**: The Executive Committee and the full Commission meetings were called to order at 12:50 p.m. by President Agredano. Commissioner Montaño led the flag salute and moment of silence.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Meetings of previous meetings**: It was MSC (Dove/Thomas) unanimously to approve the minutes of November 17, 2007 as amended and to be provided by the Secretary.

3. **Public Comment**: None.

4. **President's Report**: Commission President Agredano welcomed Commissioners to the first Commission meeting of 2009. He announced his plan to set clear goals and an agenda for the Commission for 2009 which will include planning for the upcoming IAOHRA Conference scheduled for Los Angeles in August 2009. He notified Commissioners that he will be scheduling a lunch meeting planning session which will include follow-up on the October training with Laree Kiely.

5. **Executive Director's Report** : The Staff's Program Summary for January 2009 was distributed to all Commissioners. Executive Director Robin Toma reported:

- That he had made a presentation on hate crime statistics to the L.A. City Council Public Safety Committee held this morning. LAPD requested that representatives from LAPD and LAUSD School Police meet with Commission staff to discuss improving reporting on hate crimes that occur on or near high school campuses.
- The International Human Rights Funders Group has invited him to speak at their annual conference on January 26, 2009 in San Francisco.
- The federal "Safe Schools Healthy Students" grant in the amount of $2.25 million, that LAUSD has been awarded to benefit Washington Prep is moving forward and he has been asked to co-chair the steering committee for the group.
- He was part of a conference call with advocates and one of President-elect Obama's transition team to promote incorporating state and local human rights/relations into the agenda for the new administration.
- Mr. Toma summarized for the Commissioners the set of Recommendations which have now been submitted by the consultant hired by the County to review all Commissions. Mr. Toma reported that the LA County Human Relations Commission was recommended to be continued.
  It was pointed out by several Commissioners that none of the Commissioners had been contacted by anyone representing the County Contractor and none had seen the report. It was reported that the full report will be made available online. Toma further indicated that staff will provide a copy of that report to any Commissioner who requested such. Four Commissioners' requested copies be sent to them immediately.
- Announced that the county-mandated Sexual Harassment Prevention and Cultural Diversity training sessions will be held on both February 2 and March 2, 2009, from 10 am - noon in the HRC conference room. Both sessions are mandatory for all Commissioners to attend. It was commented that some commissioners are certified to teach this subject and should assist in this effort.

Mr. Toma then introduced the new Human Relations Consultant Aid, Emily Pacheco who was welcomed by the Commissioners.. Ms. Pacheco responsibilities will include coordinating the department's Performance Counts data collection and working with the Hate Crime team, the Project One planning team and revamping the department's system for addressing community information and service requests.

6. **For Discussion/Action**

6.1 Establishment of Commission Committees FY 2008-09 (Executive Committee Recommends Approval): It was MSC (King/Montaño), to adopt the Commission Committee structure items 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 as had been proposed in Mr. Toma's memo to President Agredano dated December 15, 2008. The specific committees approved are named as follows: Hate Crimes Committee, Zero Hour Committee, Interfaith Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. The new Budget Committee had been previously approved and the Marketing Group is an Ad Hoc Committee and not a standing Committee.

6.2. Commission Meeting Schedule FY 2008-09 (Exec Committee Recommends Approval): It was MSC (King/Montaño), to adopt the Commission Meeting schedule for FY 2008-09.

6.3. Addressing Violence Against the Homeless: (Exec Committee Recommends Approval): It was MSC (King/Montaño), with no abstentions that the Commission support the five recommendations listed in a 11/1/08 memo from the Executive Director.

6.4. Follow up Tools from Leadership Retreat: The tools sent by Laree Kiely were included with all Commissioners' agenda packet. Discussion of these tools will take place at the Commissioners' next Strategic Planning meeting.

65. *Project: One* Teen Songwriting Events – Updates (King, Bojarsky): Commissioner King reported on the program plans, highlighting the recent Advisory Board meeting. She encouraged all Commissioners to help distribute fliers on the project to as many students as possible. The focus is on distributing materials to high school music teachers for dissemination to students. Postcards publicizing the events will be mailed to Commissioners for distribution later this week.

6.6. Idea of Producing Educational Program re: Augustus Hawkins for Black History Month 2009 was tabled due to the absence of its principal sponsor Commissioner William Lambert.

6.7. John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards for 2009 (Dove): NAHRO and IAOHRA are holding their joint conference in Los Angeles in August 2009. It was MSC (Dove/Thomas) unanimously that the Commission's JAF event be integrated into the joint NAHRW/IAOHRA conference activities in August 2009, if possible.

6.8. Use of Force Crisis - Inglewood Police was tabled until the next meeting due to time shortage.

6.9. CLOSED SESSION: Personnel matters. 1:59 – 2:18 p.m. No reportable action taken.

6.10. Sponsorship of *Putting 'Peaces' Together* Seminar (Executive Committee Recommends Approval): It was MSC (Thomas/Montaño) unanimously to endorse this event by allowing them to publicize the endorsement of the Commission and by putting information about the event on our website.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards Event Committee debriefing by chairman Lambert was postponed until after the return of Commissioner Lambert at the next meeting.

8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: Commissioner Dove commented that the title for the Commission's Project:" One Love, One Mic, One Song" is the same slogan that was used by Marcus Garvey back in the 1920's. Commissioner King announced that the student entries are now being accepted for the Human Relations Forum of Torrance's 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. "Visions of Unity" Contest. Commissioner Paz announced that the students who worked on the Commission-sponsored 2008 Teens Make a Difference Day event are continuing their efforts with a blood drive later this month. Commissioner Chun requested additional information on

the program to distribute to youth and announced that the annual MLK Day Parade sponsored by Commissioner Dove's organization CORE and the organization of Grand Master Chun. The parade will travel along MLK Boulevard and Crenshaw will be held this year on Monday, January 19, 2009. Both he and Commissioner Dove invited all Commissioners and staff to participate. Commissioner Thomas announced that February is National Scholar's Month and she will be providing further information on these activities associated.

Chief Deputy Verches announced the Commission's collaboration with their affiliate the Media Image Coalition event on February 28, 2009. We will be joining the Media Image Coalition and the Mayme Clayton Museum in paying tribute during Black History Month 2009, to the incredible accomplishments of the Motown Phenomena in the Civil Rights era. Motown is now celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The working title is "Songs of Freedom" and all Commissioners were invited to participate as volunteers as was the case last year.

10. Adjournment: It was MSC (Cumming/Dove) unanimously that the meeting be adjourned at 2:28 p.m. in memory of William Henry, the husband of longtime former Commissioner Judy Coffman.

Respectfully Submitted,

ADRIAN DOVE
Commission Secretary