



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2009

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

PRESENT: Felipe Agredano William Lambert
Donna Bojarsky Lea Ann King
Tong Suk Chun Eleanor Montaño
Susanne Cumming Sergio Paz
Adrian Dove Sandra E. Thomas
Kathay Feng John Wuo

NOT PRESENT: Zedar E. Broadous Mario Ceballos
Vito Cannella

STAFF: Robin Toma Elena Halpert-Schilt
Richard Verches Grace Löwenberg

GUESTS: None

1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence: The Commission meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Agredano. Commissioner Bojarsky led the flag salute and moment of silence.
2. Approval of Minutes: It was MSC (Dove/Thomas) with one abstention (Wuo) to approve the minutes of January 5, 2009 as amended.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. President's Report: Commission President Agredano asked Commissioner Paz to keep time and then requested that all agenda items be limited to ten minutes. President Agredano stressed the importance of Commissioners volunteering to work on the committee to plan the NAHRW/IAOHRA Conference scheduled for August 29 – September 3, 2009. Commissioners Chun, King, Dove, Feng and Bojarsky, volunteered for this committee. The Committee will be responsible for soliciting and collaborating with cosponsor agencies and private sector organizations to assist in organizing the panels, speakers, workshops.
5. Executive Director's Report : Executive Director Robin Toma discussed Human Relations Commission FY 2009-10 Budget which has been submitted and management expect to meet with Deputy CEO Miguel Santana and CEO Bill Fujioka during the next few weeks for passback.

CEO has requested that HRC implement a 5% reduction along with all other County departments. The CEO predicts that the County's budget deficit will probably increase by the year's end. HRC management has worked diligently to identify its candidates for the proposed reductions to maintain program services without any cuts to staff positions. The strategy entails reduced spending on perceived discretionary services and supplies as much as possible and we also propose to dramatically reduce or eliminate all funding for the Hate Crime Victim Assistance Initiative. Our plan is to deploy staff to provide HCVA services in an effort to minimize the impact of these cuts on this program area. We have also increased external fundraising with some results thus far including:

- a. The California Endowment: Currently in final stages of obtaining a two-year grant of \$200,000 to support Racialized Gang Violence Prevention efforts in Pasadena/Altadena.
- b. U.S. Department of Education Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant to LAUSD for Washington Preparatory High School: This funding request, originally submitted over two years ago is in near final stages of award. Will fund \$100,000 annually for 4 years to enable 'zerohour' program to embed key human relations elements at Washington High and its feeder middle schools. Reports on progress for this program will be made to the Commission's Zerohour Committee.
- c. Human Rights Funders/ IAOHRA: To award \$35,000 for nine months to produce a tool kit to integrate international human rights and laws into state and local human relations/rights commission's practices and authorities where practicable.
- d. Office of Supervisor Don Knabe: Approximately \$45,000 in federal JAG funds to be utilized to reduce racialized gang violence and build community in the Harbor Gateway.

None of these grants will fund any services or staff that is currently funded by the County; and all proposed projects will result in new or expanded program efforts to fill currently unserved needs.

Mr. Toma announced that we have a new Student Professional Worker – Information Technology, Jimmy Muga, who replaced Keith Chau. Also, the next Interfaith Roundtable will be held on Monday, February 23 at South Coast Botanical Gardens in the 4th District. The Network Against Hate Crime will be held on Thursday, February 5 at the Burbank Fire Training Center, highlighting the L.A. Sheriff Department's "Tolerance on Wheels" program. He then reported that the Commission had received a certificate of special recognition from Representative Maxine Waters for Project One and passed the certificate around for Commissioners to see.

6. For Discussion/Action

- 6.1. Idea of Project One, Ad Hoc Initiative: (King, Bojarsky): Commissioner King reported on the program, highlighting the six music and dialogue sessions and describing the format of the sessions. Commissioners Paz and Cumming reported on the first of those and Commissioner King reported on the second. Commissioner King requested that all Commissioners distribute fliers on the program sessions to all area high schools and youth contacts. Supervisor Knabe distributed information on the program in his weekly newsletter announcement. Commissioner King commended the staff working on this project for their efforts to produce the program. Commissioner Bojarsky strongly advocated for inviting local media to cover the sessions. Staff commitment to Project One is funded by the Commission.

- 6.2. The Zerohour Committee's Idea of Producing Program re: Augustus Hawkins for Black History Month in coming years (Lambert): Commissioner Lambert again discussed with full Commission his concept of having the Zerohour Committee exploring this idea. It was MSC (Cumming/Thomas) unanimously to place biographical and additional information on Augustus Hawkins on the HRC and zerohour websites.
 - 6.3. John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards for 2009 (Dove): Pursuant to JAF Committee and insertion of JAF annual banquet into the NAHRW and IAOHRA convention Aug. 29-Sept. 3rd. The date and venue was discussed and suggestions were made.
 - 6.4. The Hate Crime Committee (Chairman Dove) indicated committee had met and is requesting that HRC staff present a report on the issue of Inglewood Police of alleged use of authority that has resulted in the death of several men of African American or Latino ethnicity in the past several months. The requested staff report was approved.
 - 6.5. Commission sponsorship of Black-Brown Summit on Re-entry and Recidivism (Thomas): Commissioner Thomas had advised Executive Director Toma that a consortium of groups was working on the Black-Brown Re-Entry & Recidivism issue and planning a Summit in the Los Angeles area this summer. Mr. Toma has recommended mobilizing representatives from the County's four focus areas for gang reduction efforts. It was MSC (Feng/Cumming) unanimously that the Commission formally endorse this conference to help engage local representatives in its production. The summit held last summer and associated information can be found on the website www.bbsummit.org.
 - 6.6 The Budget and Finance Committee issue of FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget was addressed by Mr. Toma who reported that the office of the CEO has provided a mark for the Commission with a target NCC budget of \$3,116,000, which represents a reduction of \$ 123,000 from FY 2008-09 and includes a CEO-requested 5% reduction as well as further reductions.
7. Committee Reports
 - 7.1 John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards Event Committee (Chair, Lambert) Commissioner Lambert reported that the event was a success and is looking forward to the 2009 event. The Committee will begin meeting in the next several weeks to plan that event.
8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: Commissioner Susanne Cumming was congratulated by President Agredano on her reappointment to the Commission by Supervisor Knabe. Assistant Director Elena Halpert-Schilt distributed packets on the County's Mileage Reimbursement program that announces the new mileage reimbursement rate of 51.5 cents per mile for 2009. She also requested that Commissioners review the packet of information and sign and return Attachment D in that packet along with a copy of their valid drivers license by Friday, February 6 if they wish to continue participating as a County Mileage Permittee for 2009.
9. Adjournment: It was MSC (Dove/ Montaño) unanimously that the meeting be adjourned at 2:06 pm in memory of legendary civil rights fighter Martin Ortiz and the Lupoe Family of Wilmington which suffered a murder-suicide in the wake of their duo loss of employment and subsequent home foreclosure.

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Respectfully submitted by the Secretary,
Adrian Dove