



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Meeting of November 2, 2009
Community and Senior Services Building
3rd Floor Team Room
3175 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020

PRESENT:	Adrian Dove	Kathay Feng
	Zedar E. Broadous	Lea Ann King
	Donna Bojarsky	William Lambert
	Vito Cannella	Eleanor Montaña
	Mario Ceballos	Sergio Paz
	Susanne Cumming	Sandra E. Thomas
NOT PRESENT:	Michael Gi-Hao Cheung	Tong Suk Chun
STAFF:	Cynthia Banks, CSS Dir.	Robin Toma, HRC Exec. Dir.
	Grace Löwenberg	Elena Halpert-Schilt, HRC Assist. Exec. Dir.
	Anahit Damlamanyan	Emily M. Pacheco

- 1. Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The Commission meeting was called to order at 12:41 p.m. by President Thomas. The flag salute and moment of silence was led by Commissioner Paz.
- 2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting:** It was moved by Commissioner Cumming, seconded by Commissioner King, to approve the minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of October 2009. The motion carried with one abstention by Commissioner Paz.
- 3. Public Comment:** None
- 4. President's Report**
 - 4.1. October 6, 2009: Cultural Diversity Month Presentation before the Board of Supervisors**

President Thomas informed the Commission about the October 6, 2009 Cultural Diversity Scroll Presentation to the Commission at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Commissioners Cumming, Dove, Montano, and Paz as well as the Executive Director were in attendance, and President Thomas' words were well received by the Board.
 - 4.2. Upcoming Strategic Planning Session on November 18, 2009**

President Thomas informed the Commissioners that the next strategic planning session would be held on November 18, 2009 from 1 to 5 p.m. and that materials would be distributed prior to the meeting.
 - 4.3. October 28, 2009 Dinner with Canada's Consul General and Supreme Court Justice**

President Thomas reported that she was invited to a dinner to welcome Canadian Supreme Court Justice Silberman Abella. She presented the Commission's vision to those who attended the dinner.

4.4. Commissioner Participation

President Thomas asked HRC Assistant Executive Director Halpert-Schilt to present the *Human Relations Project/Proposal Form*, to be used by Commissioners who would like to propose projects or programs in the future, and also if they would like to augment or enhance a current Commission project or program.

4.5. Other items

President Thomas emphasized the need for a cohesive Commission.

5. Executive Director's Report

5.1. Move from Hall of Records to CSS Building

HRC Executive Director Toma reported that the move was successful and noted that the Commission had been at the Hall of Records location for as long as he knew, probably over 50 years. It was also noted that HRC staff expressed appreciation for the generous help that they have received from CSS staff. CSS Director Banks added that staff appeared to be settled in and pleased with the move.

5.2. Annual Hate Crime Report Update

It was reported that the 2008 Hate Crime Report would be released at a press conference to be held on November 19, 2009. Commissioners were asked to inform Commission Staff about specific press that they would like to invite.

Toma was asked by commissioners to provide regular updates on any incidents that occur regarding hate crime and hate crime legislation. Toma agreed to provide an update on the recent shooting at a synagogue and will arrange for a presentation on the Washington Prep grant to occur at the next Commission meeting.

5.3. Update on Federal Hate Crime Legislation

Toma reported that a recent Hate Crime Law had been passed which now includes sexual orientation, disability and gender identity into the federally protected classes and also allows the FBI to become involved in the local investigation of a hate crime under certain circumstances. A summary sheet was requested to be provided to the commissioners at a future date. It was also suggested that a protocol be established to ensure the speedy scheduling of a Press Conference when things of this nature occur.

5.4. Other items

It was reported that the Cultural Diversity Poster is still being developed. A discussion regarding the size of the poster, sponsorship, and release took place. It was suggested that the poster be 12x18 and the release be done with other organizations celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

6. For Discussion/Action

6.1. Criteria for Prioritizing Requests for Assistance

Executive Director Toma reviewed the Commission Staff's proposed *Policy on HRC's Criteria of Assessing Requests for Assistance*. The commissioners were asked to provide feedback on this document at the next strategic planning session. It was suggested that each item be given a numerical value to allow for quantitative measurement.

6.2. December 10, 2009 Human Rights Day Resolution

Executive Director Toma presented the draft Human Rights Day Proclamation and asked that the commissioners recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County of Los Angeles that they adopt December 10, 2010 as Human Rights Day. Commissioners provided feedback on the proclamation and requested that the Executive Director include their edits.

It was moved by Commissioner Broadous, seconded by Commissioner Cannella, that the Commissioners accept the draft proclamation with the additions and changes that have been made, approved unanimously.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Executive Committee

Commissioners were asked to contact Grace Lowenberg (213) 738-2792 or Emily Pacheco (213) 637-1855 to arrange for committee meetings.

7.2 Other Committee Reports: A list of committees and their members will be provided to the Commission.

8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: HRC Assistant Executive Director Halpert-Schilt informed the commissioners that a survey had been placed online at Survey Monkey and mailed to those commissioners who do not have online access. The commission staff is hoping to receive the results of that survey, regarding the first strategic planning session, in order to prepare for the upcoming session.

9. Adjournment: The Commission meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m. in memory of Paul Louie (1918-2009) who was on staff with the Commission for over 15 years, and in memory of John Harris Burt (1918-2009) the former rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathay Feng, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary