



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting of June 6, 2011
Community and Senior Services (CSS)
3175 W. Sixth Street, Room 304 – Teamwork Room
Los Angeles, California 90020

PRESENT: Rev. Zedar E. Broadous Lea Ann King
Mario Ceballos William Lambert
Susanne Cumming Eleanor Montaño
Adrian Dove Sergio Paz
Kathay Feng Sandra E. Thomas

ABSENT: Donna Bojarsky Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun
Vito Cannella Michael Gi-Hao Cheung

STAFF: Cynthia Banks Robin S. Toma
Summer Brown Elena Halpert-Schilt
Grace Löwenberg

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Thomas at 12:34 p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Montaño.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner King, and seconded by Commissioner Ceballos, to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2011 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Paz, and seconded by Commissioner King, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2011 meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Public Comment:** None.

4. **President's Report:** President Thomas thanked all of the commissioners for their service and cooperation during her terms as President. President Thomas then presented the following report:

4.1 Mission Statement of the HRC: President Thomas read aloud the Mission Statement, as a reminder of the Commission's charge.

4.2 End of Term Reflections: President Thomas reflected on some of the Commission's accomplishments over her past two terms. A few of the major accomplishments cited were as follows:

- Launched Homelessness Initiative;
- Expanded Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Initiative (RGVPI);
- Advanced zerohour/no haters here! program at Washington Prep High;
- Obtained grants for the RGVPI work in the Harbor Gateway;
- Created the new youth band, The Bricks, out of our countywide program;
- Built new coalitions in Pasadena/Altadena with our Vision 20/20 program;
- Transitioned from being a stand alone department to joining CSS;
- Dealt with new budgeting restrictions; and
- Carried out a successful strategic planning process

Commissioner Feng stated that President Thomas was like Michael Jordan; that it is good to go out when you are on top. She further stated that she would be leaving behind a good legacy with warm feelings, and that she brought the right tone and direction for leadership.

Director Banks further echoed those sentiments by stating that she sees President Thomas as a woman of courage who is open to change and transition. President Thomas does what's best for commission first and foremost, and she closed by thanking her for her mentorship.

In closing, Assistant Director Halpert-Schilt stated that on behalf of the staff, that it has been a pleasure to work with her, and significant accomplishments have occurred during her term. She feels that a much closer working relationship with staff and commissioners has developed, and they are much more integrated, creating a true understanding among both parties.

5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Toma, who arrived at this point in the meeting coming from funeral services, presented the following report:

5.1 Calendar of Meetings of Commission and Committees: Assistant Director Halpert-Schilt reviewed the calendar of events and highlighted upcoming events of interest for the commissioners. She encouraged all to attend our Third Annual Youth Media Education Conference being held on June 9, 2011 at California State University Dominguez Hills. She also stated that there will be a showing of "Two Spirits," a film that explores the senseless murder of a Navajo boy, on June 12, 2011 in Culver City at the Ivy substation. There is another performance of "The Bricks" at juvenile hall with Big Boy from radio station Power 106 FM.

- 5.2 Strategic Plan Updates:** Executive Director Toma provided an update on the strategic plan and gave several updates to each of the goals. He stated that in order to sustain the great work at Washington Prep that they will be looking into creating an online course for staff development in the event there are not funds in the future dedicated to this area. He further stated that there is much work being done around improving the contents of the Hate Crime report, and it is slated to be produced in November of this year. Lastly, he stated that training in leadership for homeless youth is currently being conducted in conjunction with HRC staff members and Covenant House.
- 5.3 Grant Application for Racialized Gang Violence Prevention:** Executive Director Toma reported that in continuing the work of RGVPI and the Re-entry planning grant, CSS in conjunction with the County's Chief Executive Office (CEO) submitted a grant proposal to the federal government's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for \$ 2.2 million. This would be a two year project focused on building community violence prevention councils in the original four countywide gang reduction demonstration sites: Monrovia-Duarte, Pacoima, Florence-Firestone, and the Harbor Gateway.

Executive Director Toma also reported that the daughter of artist and recently deceased Commissioner Kate Stern wants to offer her paintings to commissioners as donations. Executive Director Toma will follow up to share the paintings and see whether the paintings can be used.

Lastly, Executive Director Toma gave thanks to President Thomas for her faithful years of service as Commission President, and on behalf of the Commissioners and staff, presented her with a gavel plaque in appreciation.

6. For Discussion/Action

- 6.1 Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2011-2012:** Commissioner Thomas reported that the official election ballots were mailed to commissioners for review prior to the meeting. She then presented the slate of nominations for the 2011-2012 Commission Officers. For the record, it was noted that Commissioner Cheung had withdrawn his name from the slate, and Commissioner Thomas was now the 5th District nominee. The slate presented was as follows:

- President: Sergio Paz, 2nd District
- Vice President/Secretary: Susanne Cumming, 4th District
- Vice President: Kathay Feng, 1st District
- Vice President: William Lambert, 3rd District
- Vice President: Sandra Thomas, 5th District

All Commissioners on the slate again indicated their acceptance of their nomination. It was moved by Commissioner Broadous, and seconded by Commissioner Dove, to accept the slate as proposed. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Paz then thanked all of the commissioners for their support; he stated he will have very large shoes to fill.

It was further moved by Commissioner Broadous, and seconded by Commissioner Dove, to elect the slate as proposed by the nominating committee. King / Dove chaired the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Incoming President Paz recommended that the committees continue to meet as are, until such time that new appointments are made.

- 6.2 John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards:** Commissioner Cumming reported that confirmation of the John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations award nominees is in progress.

She was happy to announce that we have received a generous \$2,000 Sponsorship donation from Lockheed Martin.

- 6.3 Signing of Code of Conduct for Human Relations Commissioners:** Commissioner Paz reported that he just needs two more signatures for the newly adopted Code of Conduct, and then the packet will be complete.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Ad Hoc Leadership Committee:** Nothing to report.

- 7.2 Homeless Committee:** Nothing to report.

- 7.3 Youth Committee:** Commissioner King provided a written report for commissioners to review. She also reported that she is continuing to compile a report for possible food vendors that can assist in feeding the youth at various events.

- 7.4 Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee:** Minutes from the May meeting were given to commissioners for review.

- 7.5 Crisis Response Committee:** Commissioner Feng provided a written report for commissioners to review, which includes a review of an earlier shooting incident involving a young African American person, and a report of 9-11 county-wide preparations and responses to potential hate violence, as we are on the eve on the 10 year anniversary.

- 7.6 John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations Award Committee:** Nothing additional to report.

- 8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements:** Commissioner Feng reported that there will be a redistricting hearing for citizens on June 10, 2011, where they will be releasing draft maps for the state. President Thomas also announced the Quality of Life center for Bright Future Scholars has their graduation ceremony this weekend Sunday at the Pasadena Convention Center, and all are welcome to come and support the students. Commissioners will need to express their interest to attend to President Thomas prior to the event.

9. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner King, and seconded by Commissioner Paz, and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathay Feng, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary