



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Commission Meeting of February 7, 2011
The California Endowment Conference Center - Sequoia Room
1000 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California

PRESENT: Michael Gi-Hao Cheung Kathay Feng
Rev. Zedar E. Broadous Eleanor Montaño
Susanne Cumming Sergio Paz
Lea Ann King Mario Ceballos
Sandra E. Thomas

ABSENT: Donna Bojarsky Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun
William Lambert Adrian Dove
Vito Cannella

STAFF: Robin S. Toma Grace Löwenberg
Summer Brown

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The executive commission meeting was called to order by President Thomas at 12:55 p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner King.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, and seconded by Commissioner King, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2011 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **President's Report:** President Thomas presented the following report:
 - 4.1 **Mission Statement of the HRC:** President Thomas asked that Commissioner Paz read aloud the Mission Statement, as a reminder of the Commission's charge. President Thomas then stated that she will ask a different Commissioner each month to read the Mission Statement.
 - 4.2 **CAHRO Conference:** President Thomas inquired whether commissioners were enjoying the conference of the California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) so far, and urged them to apply the things they have learned to the Commissions' own efforts.
 - 4.3 **Meeting with Urban Progressives on Diversity in Episodic Television:** After attending several meetings on this topic, President Thomas expressed her view that the Commission

cannot commit to these efforts unless it directly aligns with the Commission's current goals and strategies, but we will help whenever possible. Commissioner Broadous asked for more information about the organization, which Toma agreed to share what he has. President Thomas noted that when the Urban Progressives has clarity as to the focus of its proposal, it can inform her to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

- 4.4 Upcoming Countywide Summit on Re-Entry, February 16th:** President Thomas announced the upcoming the 6th summit, and thanked the HRC and CSS staff for working so tirelessly to put the event together. The summit is expected to draw around 600 guests. She encourages all co mmissioners to attend if their schedules permit. Commissioners Paz, Montano, Cumming, and Broadous indicated they would be attending.
- 4.5 Commissioner Attendance:** President Thomas informed the group that she received a request from Supervisor Antonovich inquiring what can be done to improve commissioner attendance among all Commissions. This examination process is also part of the Commission's sunset review. President Thomas asked what we can do to improve our attendance within our own commission. Current attendance rates are at 57%, and the countywide standard is 60%. She stated that commissioners who do not attend on a regular basis hurt the commission, as well as having vacant seats. She then made a call to commissioners on improving the situation. Some of the suggestions are as follows: 1) keep appointing supervisors abreast of the situation when commissioners do not attend meetings on a regular basis; 2) have monthly vs. bi-monthly meetings; and 3) give commissioners the ability to call into meetings via conference call. Commissioner Broadous suggested that the group re-visit the proposed solutions to the issue. Commissioner Paz announced that he would bring these issues to the ad hoc leadership committee meeting and they can make an analysis of the proposed solutions. A report will be ready to read aloud to the group at the next March meeting.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Toma thanked all members present for attending CAHRO conference, and encouraged them to make connections with other professionals to share common challenges, issues, and ideas for solutions, in order to protect their role in government. He then presented the following report:
 - 5.1 Calendar of Meetings of Commission and Committees:** Executive Director Toma informed that Assistant Director Halpert-Schilt who was out sick, would provide it after her return to work.
 - 5.2 "No Haters Here!" Week Kick-Off at Washington Prep High:** Executive Director Toma thanked all commissioners who attended any of the "No Haters Here" events. Commissioner King stated that she will later give a detailed report to the group towards the end of the meeting when committee updates are given. On a separate note, Commissioner Ceballos stated that we need to meet with the new superintendent of LAUSD to establish a relationship with him.
 - 5.3 Strategic Plan Implementation:** The document accompanying this item was to be brought by Assistant Director Halpert-Schilt, who was out ill.
 - 5.4 Corporate Advisory Committee (CAC) event in May:** Executive Director Toma talked about the CAC's current efforts; they are co-sponsoring an event geared

towards corporate America, and their lack of inclusion and sensitivity towards people of color, women, who are in positions of leadership. CAC will partner with author and speaker Dr. Freada Kapur Klein, of the Level Playing Field Institute, this event will be a public forum, targeting corporate diversity. Attendees can expect to hear current arguments around this issue, as well as vignettes and stories of those affected.

6. For Discussion/Action

- 6.1 Request to use John Anson Ford (JAF) Trust Funds for Homeless Leadership Council:** Commissioner Cheung presented on this continuing item since he was to meet with the Homeless Committee to consider this item for recommendation to the full commission meeting. Although they were unable to convene the committee, Commissioner Cheung as the chair recommends approval of the motion to request the usage of JAF funds not to exceed \$1,460 to be used to sponsor the Homeless Leadership Council. Commissioner King further added that if other sources of funding became available to sponsor this request that the original funds be returned to the JAF Trust Fund for future use. The motion was made by Cheung, seconded by Commissioner Cumming, and approved unanimously, without abstentions. There is an understanding that if funds are obtained from other sources, whether the departmental budget or private sponsors, the funds will not be drawn from, or if already drawn, then reimbursed to the JAF Trust Fund.
- 6.2 Fact Sheet on L.A. County Human Relations Commission:** Executive Director Toma presented the revised Human Relations Commission fact sheet for discussion and feedback. He described in detail, several changes to the document since the last meeting. He closed by inviting commissioners to give him additional feedback on the FAQ portion, as only one commissioner sent comments/changes in response to the request for feedback at the last meeting. Submissions may be sent directly to him so that they may be revised and presented at a future meeting.
- 6.3 JAF Trust Fund Guidelines:** Commissioner Cumming presented a draft "Criteria for use of JAF funds". This document will serve as a template for members to submit when they want to request funds. Commissioner Cumming requested input on the draft document, so it could be later voted on at the next meeting.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Ad Hoc Leadership Committee:** Commissioner Paz reported his committee met via conference call on January 18, 2011. Based on the recommendations set forth at the retreat, the committee is working on a draft code of conduct and workplan for the Commission. They will be having a face-to-face meeting February 24, 2011 to discuss their progress.
- 7.2 Homeless Committee:** Commissioner Cheung reported that the donor had not decided which date to present his donation to the homeless on the occasion of the Lunar New Year at the Mission in downtown LA.

7.3 Youth Committee: Commissioner King gave a report on “No Haters Here” week that was celebrated at “Washington Involving Neighborhood” (WIN) schools, including Washington Prep High, Harte and Clay Middle Schools, in January 2011. She then passed out pictures that captured many of the special events that went on that week at the different schools. President Thomas asked for a round of applause for all the staff and commissioners that supported those events. Commissioner Feng stated that as a Commission, we should devise a standardized method to capture the good work of the Commission (e.g., pictures, visuals, and other communicative tools).

7.4 Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee: Commissioner Paz did not report out since his meeting was cancelled due to the fact that it was previously scheduled the same day of the CAHRO conference and the Commission meeting.

7.5 Crisis Response Committee: No report was presented.

7.6 JAF Human Relations Awards Committee: Commissioner Cumming reported that she would like to have the JAF awards at the same place and time as it was last year on October 11, 2011. She then informed the group that nomination forms will be distributed at the April meeting.

8. Commissioner’s Comments/Announcements: Commissioner King distributed “No Haters Here” pens and calendars from Washington Prep high to meeting attendees.

Commissioner Feng announced that it was the lunar New Year, and that there would be a big lantern festival event on March 5, 2011. The event is one of the most important celebrations in several Asian cultures, and will be celebrated for the entire month of March.

President Thomas closed by mentioning that it was National Scholars month.

9. Adjournment: Executive Director Toma requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Frank S. Emi, a former World War II U.S. internment camp prisoner who led a group called the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, whose members refused to be drafted into the U.S. military until Japanese Americans’ human and constitutional rights were respected. He endured much criticism, even within his own community, and served 3 years in a federal prison, for which he was later pardoned by President Truman. Commissioner Broadous asked adjournment also in memory of Jack Popejoy, a KNX news reporter. It was moved by President Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Broadous, and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting in their memory at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathay Feng, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary