



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Meeting of June 7, 2010
Community and Senior Services (CSS) Building
3rd Floor Team/Ray Bartlett Conference Room
3175 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020

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

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

STAFF: Cynthia Banks, CSS Director Riku Matsuda
 Elena Halpert-Schilt, Emily Pacheco
 HRC Assist. Exec. Director Robin Toma, HRC Executive Director
 Grace Löwenberg

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The commission meeting was called to order by Commission President Sandra Thomas at 12:40 p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Feng.
2. **Approval of Minutes of previous meetings:** It was moved by Commissioner Lambert, seconded by Commissioner Cumming, to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2010 meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **President's Report:**
 - 4.1. **Update on Meeting with LAUSD and Los Angeles City Mayor:** President Thomas reported that the letter approved by the Commission had been sent to both LAUSD Superintendent Cortines and L.A. City Mayor Villaraigosa requesting a meeting to discuss the Black History Month incident at Wadsworth Elementary School. A response has not yet been received. She requested that Commission staff follow up on the request.
 - 4.2. **Strategic Plan Progress:** President Thomas reported that progress on the Strategic Plan would be discussed later in the agenda and, in consideration of time and a full agenda, moved on to the next item.

4.3. Letter from U.S. State Department Seeking Input from Human Rights Commissions: President Thomas reported that the Commission had received a letter from the U.S. Department of State seeking input from Human Rights Commissions. She reported that a copy of the Commission's response, a media release, was included in the agenda packet.

4.4. Other: CSS Director Cynthia Banks reported that President Thomas was honored by Supervisor Antonovich as Woman of the Year. The issue of The County Digest in which the award was detailed was circulated to Commissioners.

5. Executive Director's Report

5.1. Strategic Plan Implementation: HRC Executive Director Toma briefly reported on the Commission staff's progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the current strategic plan. Toma distributed a written update on the progress with the strategic plan, which he referenced in his remarks:

- Goal 2, Strategy 1, Objective 2: Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative
 - Toma thanked HRC Assistant Executive Director Halpert-Schilt for her work done to develop the procurement documents for the new HCVA AI contract. He explained the rating process for each submission, and in response to Commissioner interest, said that the selected vendor will be invited to speak to the Commission.
- Goal 4, Strategy 1, Objective 4: Intergroup Relations Plan for LA County's Parks After Dark summer program for neighborhoods affected by racialized gang violence.

5.2. Youth Offender Reentry Planning Grant Summit: Toma provided the Commissioners with the flyer for the most recent Planning Grant Summit held in the First Supervisorial District. Halpert-Schilt informed the Commission that the date for the Second District Summit had not yet been set but is expected to be very large.

Commissioner Feng commented that there are efforts to consider whether incarcerated persons should be counted in the prisons or jails they currently occupy or in the place they were living when arrested, given the impact on federal funding based on demographics of census tracts. She stated that she will provide more information to staff about this for the next commission meeting agenda.

5.3. Human Rights Conference: Toma distributed the flyer regarding the U.S. Human Rights Funders' Conference reception dinner. He informed Commissioners that they were invited to attend and encouraged commissioners to RSVP as soon as possible. He also informed Commissioners that the Human Rights Funders will be attending a presentation on the Commission's programs at the Washington Prep High School work site on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at approximately 2:00 p.m. He encouraged Commissioners to attend.

Toma also informed the Commissioners that the IA OHRA conference is scheduled to be held from August 29, 2010 through September 1, 2010 in Mobile, Alabama. He will send out another 'Save The Date' e-mail.

5.4 Other: Assistant Executive Director, Elena Halpert-Schilt added the following to Mr. Toma's report:

The City of Santa Clarita gave the Human Relations Commission a commendation certificate to show their appreciation for the work done to support the establishment of the Nomad Lab in Santa Clarita.

She observed that the students staffing the CSU Long Beach graduation ceremony for the School of Liberal Arts were wearing school t-shirts that had the slogan "No Haters Here" on the back of the shirts. She subsequently spoke to the student staff and was informed that the Dean of the school had seen the slogan and felt that it represented the values and philosophy of the school and had it printed on the t-shirts that the staff were at all official school events. Commissioner King commended that this is an example of the viral transfer of knowledge and information and demonstrates the fact that this slogan resonates with youth and adult alike.

6. For Discussion/Action

6.1. Establishing Ballot of Candidates for Commission Officers: As chair of the Nominations Committee, Commissioner Dove chaired this agenda item. He presented a slate of nominations for Commission Officers. The slate presented was as follows:

- Fifth District: Commissioner Sandra Thomas, President
- Fourth District: Commissioner Eleanor Montañó, Vice President
- Third District: Commissioner William Lambert, Vice President-Secretary
- Second District: Commissioner Tong Suk Chun, Vice President
- First District: Commissioner Kathay Feng, Vice President

All Commissioners on the slate accepted their nomination, with the exception of Commissioner Grand Master Tong Suk Chun who Commissioner Dove said had communicated his acceptance to him prior to the Commission meeting. Commissioner Dove then opened each Officer seat for nomination from the floor. Commissioner Cumming nominated Commissioner Feng for the position of Vice President-Secretary, which Commissioner Feng accepted.

Attached to the Nominations Slate was a report regarding the meeting of the Nominations Committee. Commissioner Ceballos requested that the minutes reflect his email, which is attached, that noted his corrections to the report regarding efforts to include him in the meeting, to which there was no objection. Commissioner Dove requested that the minutes also reflect his attempts to contact Commissioner Ceballos to ensure that his input was received.

It was moved by Commissioner Lambert, seconded by Commissioner Montañó, to accept the Nominations Committee Chair's report, with the Nominations slate as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6.2. Proposed Reorganization of Commission Committees Based on Strategic Goals: Due to time constraints, Director Banks suggested that this agenda item was moved to the July Commission Meeting agenda with a time allocation of 15 minutes. The item was tabled to the next meeting without objection.

6.3. Proposed Motion to Align with Board Action in Opposition to Arizona Law SB 1070: President Thomas introduced the agenda item. Provided in the agenda packet was a copy of the Board of Supervisors' motion opposing Arizona Law SB 1070. Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the proposed Commission resolution in alignment with the Board action. A discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Ceballos, seconded by Commissioner Feng, to adopt the resolution (attached to these minutes) to support the Board of Supervisor's motion regarding Arizona's SB 1070. The motion carried, with Commissioner Broadous and Commissioner Dove opposing.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Ad Hoc Ground Rules Committee: President Thomas asked CSS Director Banks to introduce this agenda item. Director Banks reported that the Ad Hoc Ground Rules Committee had a very productive meeting and announced that it had been proposed that all Commissioners attend a six-hour retreat at Commissioner Lambert's home. Included in the agenda packet was a report from the Ad Hoc Ground Rules Committee detailing the proceedings of the meeting as well as its outcomes. Possible dates for the next meeting were also included in the report. It was requested that June 25, 2010 be removed. Commissioners thanked CSS Director Banks for her work and the materials provided.

7.2 JAF Human Relations Awards Committee: Commissioner King distributed a written JAF Committee report and provided a brief oral report on the main points.

8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: None.

9. Adjournment: Upon the motion by Commissioner Dove to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 p.m. in memory of William Elkins, former Special Assistant to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley; UCLA's legendary former basketball coach John Wooden; and Kathy Green with the Sybil Brand Institute Inspection Commission, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathay Feng, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary