

Commissioners

Araceli Campos
Aziza Hasan
Helena Marissa Montes
Maegan E. Ortiz
Keith Parker
Abigail Zelenski



Executive Director

Capri Maddox

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

- Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m. and roll call provided by Joumana Silyan-Saba
- Commissioners in Attendance: Araceli Campos, Aziza Hasan, Helena Marissa Montes, Maegan E. Ortiz, Keith Parker, and Abigail Zelenski

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Capri Maddox congratulated the Commissioners on being appointed and making history as the City launches the first ever Human and Civil Rights Commission (CHRC). She acknowledged the community partners and organizations as well as service providers who supported the formation of this Commission. Ms. Maddox noted the purpose of CHRC is to “strive to promote understanding between and among communities and to discourage discrimination that denies equal treatment to any individual because of an immutable characteristic real or perceived”. She further detailed the organizational structure to include the Human Relations Commission, Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the Office of Racial Equity and shared the four areas of focus: commerce, education, employment and housing. Ms. Maddox highlighted the collaboration, outreach and community engagement as well as investigative process and enforcement powers that are granted to CHRC.

3. BROWNACT OVERVIEW

- Curt Kidder with the City Attorney's Office provided a brief overview of the Brown Act as well as Robert's Rules.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- Commissioners discussed the creation of an ad-hoc committee to develop bylaws and report back to the full commission.
- Motion to adopt Robert's Rules and create the bylaws ad-hoc committee was moved and seconded. Motion approved by all.

5. PRESENTATION

- Ms. Maddox introduced Dr. Chandra Ford an Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences and Founding Director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Health. Dr. Ford started by providing an overview of the center

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which was launched in 2017 and referenced a recent publication titled: *Racism: Science & Tools for the Public Health Professional* as well as research findings by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine for developing evidence-based, community driven solutions that achieve health equity.

- Dr. Ford noted the COVID-19 health disparities in black and brown communities as compared to population size in L.A. County. She cautioned against the normalization of death rates while ignoring the systemic inequalities and disparities in chronic conditions such as heart disease and asthma. She noted that a comprehensive strategy and policies aimed at addressing structural racism as a root cause of the inequities are most likely to curtail racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19.
- Dr. Ford elaborated on the challenges of racism as “a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (“race”) that unfairly disadvantages individuals and communities.” She also pointed to the hate crimes data since 2015 indicating increases in hate crimes around the country and the recent anecdotal data suggesting an increase of API stereotyping and scapegoating of immigrant communities during the COVID pandemic.
- Dr. Ford highlighted best practices and lessons learned from HIV. She noted the need to address the totality of societal systems and pointed to a communitywide movement toward equity requiring broad and diverse coalitions focused on the social determinants of health and structural barriers to equity.

6. AGENDA SETTING & NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

- Commissioners agreed to meet on Friday July 17th at 10:00 a.m. until the regularly scheduled meeting is decided.

7. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.