



**Human Relations Commission  
Meeting Minutes via Zoom  
August 26, 2020, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM  
Via Zoom**

Commissioners

Angelica Solis-Montero  
*President*

Irma Beserra-Nunez  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Anthony Mack  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

Melany De La Cruz-Viesca  
Nirinjan Singh Khalsa  
Herpsima Khatchadorian  
Courtney Morgan-Greene  
Rosa Russell  
Jay Sanderson  
Irene Tovar  
Stacy Twilley

Staff

Capri Maddox  
*General Manager*

Francisco Ortega  
*Director*

Christy Numano-  
Hiura  
*City Attorney*

Civil and Human Rights  
Department Advisory  
Boards

Civil and Human Rights  
Commission

Commission on the  
Status of Women

Human Relations  
Commission

Transgender  
Advisory Council

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Francisco Ortega, Senior Project Coordinator

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 12:01 pm.

Commissioners Present: Courtney Morgan-Greene, Irma Beserra Núñez, Nirinjan Singh Khalsa, Anthony Mack, Rosa Russell, Angelica Solis-Montero, Irene Tovar, Melany De La Cruz Viesca, Stacy Twilley

Commissioners Absent: Herpsima Khatchadorian,

**II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- The board meeting minutes for July 22, 2020 were unanimously approved with minor edits.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

*The Public is encouraged to make public comments. Speakers are limited to two (2) minutes on non-agenda items, one (1) minute on agenda items, for a total of five (5) minutes. The total time for all public comments is limited to twenty (20) Minutes.*

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

B. Motion to authorize Commission staff to explore submission of a grant proposal to the LA Innovation Fund to support Human Relations Commission programs. The board authorize commission staff to on behalf of the Budget Ad Hoc Committee to explore submission to the LA Innovation Fund to support Human Relations programing. The motion was second by commissioner Khalsa and passed by a majority of the board with one abstention. The discussion before the vote centered on:

1. Commissioner Morgan-Greene reported that the Innovation Commission was fully funded in FY 2020-2021 and encouraged the commission to create a process that to select a project and submit grant proposal application.
2. Commission Director, Francisco Ortega stated that motion was intended to instruct staff to proceed with the selection of a

potential project and how we can narrow the scope down to a single project

3. Commissioner Beserra Nunez called for the outlining of the general concept and encouraged both the Chair of the Ad Hoc on Racial Equity and Ad Hoc on Immigration to move to select a project.
4. Commissioner Khalsa disagreed with using adding more work to the Ad Hoc Committee's work. He suggested that the Budget Committee should take this work on independently.
5. Commission President Solis-Montero suggested that the Budget Ad Hoc Meeting take on the bulk of the planning.

C. Motion to adopt letter of support for CHRD's budget request from City Council. This item was added after the agenda has been posted to meet brown act requirements. The majority of the board, instructed by City Attorney, voted to add this item officially to agenda so that the board would have an opportunity to take action. The vote to include the item passed unanimously. The board discussed the following to take action on the item:

1. CHRD General Manager, Capri Maddox gave a general overview and update on the current budget process before the City Council, she highlighted the Councilmember Cedillo's Motion to create the CHRD and the transition of the two commission, CSW and HRC. She also noted that the department budget item would not be heard in full City Council until the first or second week of October.
2. Commission President Solis-Montero suggested having the letter addressed to the full City Council rather than to the Budget and Finance Committee. Staff from CHRD agreed to make the changes and edits to the letter to present at the next board meeting in September.
3. Commissioner Morgan-Greene emphasized the importance of this budget as the call for racial justice continues to be heard at many levels.
4. Commission 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Beserra Nunez, introduced a motion to address the letter of support for the new CHRD be addressed to the full City Council, the motion was second by commissioner Tovar. The motion was passed.

## **VI. INFORMATION AND UPDATES (1 hour 15 min)**

Several updates were introduced:

- Transgender Advisory Council Update was presented by TAC President, Karina Samala, and TAC members James Wen and Jazzmun Crayton:
  - a. Miss Samala congratulated Mr. Lucky Alexander who was married last month in a public ceremony in Hollywood. She also had the opportunity to meet with Miss Capri Maddox to discuss the work of TAC and issues surrounding the Trans Community.
  - b. She reported on an August 17 attack on three transgender women that is now being investigated as a hate crime by the LAPD. Miss Samala has been in touch with LAPD and Chief Girmala's Office to monitor the case. Two of the suspects have been apprehended and one is being sought.
  - c. TAC Member Jazzmun Crayton reported on activities related to the Midnight Stroll; she reported that her team of volunteers held a stroll in June and August with limited volunteers given the pandemic. Eight volunteers passed out food bags and resources to folks living in encampments in the Hollywood area. She reported that they will hold a stroll in September as well.
  - d. TAC Member James Wen reported on the activities of the TAC's Housing and Homelessness front. He reported that he and other TAC members met with the California Housing and Community Development Department representatives to discuss equity and accountability for housing for transgender and gender non-binary individuals. It was a discussion centered on how trans individuals can access this kind of housing. He also highlighted the plight in this space for trans men.
  - e. Commissioner Beserra Nunez asked Miss Samala if she had made contact with the General Manager of the LA City Department on Aging, Laura Trejo, regarding older transgender adults who could put TAC in touch with the Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Network on Aging that advocates for older adults.
  - f. CHRD General Manager Capri Maddox expressed support for the Transgender Community and is in conversation with LAPD and the City Attorney to potentially hold a forum focused on supporting this community and hearing from the community directly to address the hate crimes against the community. She is targeting mid-September for the forum. She also discussed potential joint meeting with all advisory commissions under the new department and praised the TAC for working on the housing front. She also reported that the department will be able to do enforcement on this front as the department is being organized and more staff come on board.
  
- **Ad Hoc Committee Updates:**
  - a. **Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Equity, Committee Chair Anthony Mack**

-Committee Chair Mack made introductory remarks and introduced Committee members (Mack, Tovar, Beserra-Nunez, Khalsa, and Twilley), he reported on the following:

-Long term goal development regarding racial equity – 1). Public Safety (Policing and hate-crime prevention) 2). COVID Equity.

-Highlighted the top five priorities (voter participation, budget distribution, racial equity, mental health and healthcare, police reform and the participation and role of men in under-represented communities)

-Commissioner Mack underscored the need to address the needs of men in this very moment and underscored the gravity of the moment and racial disparities are the focus of the committee.

-He also highlighted what expected results will be and whom the committee will meet both internally and externally.

-Mr. Mark underscored that this committee is focused on Racial Justice.

-Commission President praised the committee for focusing on outcomes led by Mr. Mack. Mr. Mack also reported that the team is working via internal google platform to develop comprehensive reports.

-Commissioner Morgan-Green highlighted the Transgender Hate Crime attack, she also highlighted the new interest of the LAPD to re-convene the participants of the Dinner Dialogue at a future date. She called on the board to consider forming an additional ad hoc committee to be created to focus on next steps of the report and offered to take part in the committee. Additionally, she reported that UCLA could be a potential academic partner moving forward. Commissioner Khalsa agreed and asked that his name be added when the committee is formed at the next board meeting.

-Commissioner Beserra Nunez thanked both former staff Maia Ferdman and Commissioner Morgan-Greene for their work on the Dinner Dialogue report and she feels that the recommendation to create a new ad hoc has her full support. She also called on fellow commissioners to join these committees to continue this very important work. She also suggested that commission president Solis-Montero be part of any high level meeting with LAPD moving forward.

-The formation of the new ad hoc will be added to the September 23, 2020 meeting.

**b. Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration, Committee Chair Irene Tovar**

-Commissioner Tovar delivered the following report:

-Commissioner Tovar introduced all current members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration (Beserra Nunez, De La Cruz Viesca, and Mack), she noted that there is currently a vacancy on the committee.

-Commissioner Tovar reported that the committee met with both Nora Preciado, Director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and Mel Ilomin from Councilmember Cedillo's Office to discuss possible collaboration and current efforts underway by both entities.

-Commissioner Tovar thanked the staff for moving this effort forward and also thanked the Mayor's Office for partnering on this front. She believes strongly that this is a crucial moment and the committee must take action on all these fronts to protect the civil and human rights of all immigrants.

-Commission President Solis Montero asked if the committee has begun to address a timeline for the work.

-Commissioner Beserra Nunez praised commissioner Tovar for her leadership and highlighted the plight of the Latino and Native American community, but underscored the need to be inclusive of all immigrants specifically to the grassroots community. She also praised Miss Tovar for proposing a webinar that will be targeting the grassroots Latino/Latinx Community.

**c. Ad Hoc Committee on Budget, Angelica Solis-Montero**

-Commissioner Montero reported that the Budget Ad Hoc last met in February right before the pandemic. It was chaired by former Commissioner Rothman. In August 2019 the Budget Committee met with the Mayor's Office to discuss how it would fund the various events and initiatives of the HRC. Moving forward the Ad Hoc will be reconvened to explore ways in which the full commission can fund its work. She instructed staff to explore a time to date for next meeting.

-Francisco Ortega, Senior Project Coordinator reminded commissioners about the parameters of Ad Hoc Committee's and explained that it is important, based on advice from City Attorney, that these ad hoc committees develop internal plans to achieve their work.

-City Attorney representative Christy Numano-Hiura reminded the board that typically ad hoc committees have a timeline to achieve the work. She urged the commission to be specific with tasks and timelines.

-Commissioner Courtney Morgan-Green asserted that the commission bylaws that were drafted in 2019 had a limit of two years to complete its work. She asked how the City Attorney developed this conclusion.

**d. Update on Los Angeles Innovation Commission, Courtney Morgan-Greene**

**VII. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Office of Racial Equity Presentation, Deputy Mayor Brenda Shockley, Chief Equity Officer. Miss Shockley reported on the following:

- a. Executive Directive 27, which she highlighted requires every City Department to assign a Racial Equity Officer and requires each department to develop Racial Equity Action Plans with measurable goals and outcomes. She emphasized the cultural shift within the City to end structural racism within all City operations.
- b. Racial Equity plans are due to the Mayor's Office by September 16, 2020.
- c. This will establish a baseline and timeline to create measurable goals to develop a governance in the City that embraces racial equity as its core values and principles.
- d. The creation of the Racial Equity Taskforce to have departments help each other to develop these internal plans.
- e. Miss Shockley also referenced the repeal of Prop 209 established in 1996, which has prevented the City from recognizing the race and ethnicity in public and private sectors. Prop 16 is in the ballot in the next election specifically to repeal the 19196 law. By the middle of September her office will have more data by department which will focus on City services.

- f. Miss Shockley also addressed her Office’s role within the new CHRD and the different charges of each entity. She is excited about the natural partnership between herself and Miss Maddox.
  - g. Commissioner Beserra Nunez praised Miss Shockley for her work in the space of racial equity. She expressed that we must win the hearts and minds of all of the various ethnic groups in the City. What type of Cultural Competency training to change policy and those hearts and minds?
  - h. Miss Shockley expressed the need to create a permanent infrastructure of equity that will outlive a particular administration and political climate. She reported that her office is working with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and is also engaged with external partners on the Truth and Reconciliation within our region to work regionally with partners. HR 100 & HR 40 are focused on this historical perspective on Truth and Reconciliation. She praised the long time work and activism of commissioner Irene Tovar and ended by talking about telling the “truth” moving forward.
- B. This item was tabled for the September 23, 2020 board meeting, Mr. Robin Toma, Executive Director of the County Commission on Human Relations will be presenting at that time.

**VIII. CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT UPDATE (15 min)**

- A. Capri Maddox, General Manager of the Civil and Human Rights Department gave a broad overview and update that focused on the following:
- Highlighted the work of the commission staff, support staff, interns and the personnel on loan to the department from the Mayor’s Office to help stand up the department.
  - She highlighted re-entry event being developed in partnership with some of the Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Equity.
  - Also met with Commissioner Russell and Morgan-Greene as a way to connect on several fronts including immigration and working with the African American Community.

**IX. HRC TRANSITION UPDATES**

- A. Francisco Ortega, Commission Director gave a brief update on the on internal staffing and staff working on various fronts with our ad hoc committees and projects.
- B. Commission President Solis-Montero thanked all the staff for continued support given all logistical challenges in the midst of COVID pandemic.

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Create new ad hoc on dinner dialogues.

**XI. NEXT BOARD MEETINGS**

September 23, 2020, 12pm to 2 pm via Zoom

**Commissions and Community Engagement Meetings:**

- i. Transgender Advisory Council: Thursday September 17, 6:00 pm-8:00pm, via Zoom
- ii. Civil and Human Rights Commission: Thursday, September 10, 2020, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Via Zoom

- iii. Commission on the Status of Women: Friday, September 18, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, via Zoom

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Commissioner Russell asked that the meeting be adjourned in Memory of Assembly Woman Gwen Moore, it was second by commissioner Mack.
- Commissioner Tovar adjourned the meeting commemorating the Chicano Moratorium on that took place on August 29, 1970 in East LA off Whittier Blvd. One hundred and fifty people were arrested for protesting the Vietnam War. In recognition of these men and women we would like to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beserra Nunez recounted the events of that day as her partner was among the people gathered on that day. She thanked commissioner Tovar for adjourning in their memories.

*Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, requests need to be called into commission office at least three working days before the meeting*

- Meeting Attachments:
  - i. August 27 2020 Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.