

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

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**CAPRI MADDOX**  
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**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

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**ERIC GARCETTI**  
**MAYOR**

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

February 11, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Commissioner Campos called meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
- Commissioners in Attendance: Araceli Campos, Leslie Ivie, Aziza Hasan, Helena Marissa Montes, Keith Parker, Abigail Zelenski

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January meeting minutes approved.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS:** Western Center on Law and Poverty

- Nisha Vyas, a senior attorney from the Western Center on Law and Poverty, shared brief highlights about the center's advocacy work; impact litigation; and legislative and budget advocacy for Californians who are experiencing injustice in areas of healthcare, public benefits, and housing.
- Ms. Vyas noted the current housing struggles, largely due to lack of affordable housing and the economic impact by COVID-19. She spoke about the eviction moratorium and noted that the moratorium delays eviction, but does not prevent it. She also described the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act which eliminates rent non-payment as grounds for eviction when the tenant provides a monthly declaration stating that they cannot pay the rent in full, but can pay 25% of the rent each month.
- Ms. Vyas stressed the importance of collaborative work to raise awareness of commissioners, community, and government participants to protect vulnerable groups from continued economic fallout due to the pandemic.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Capri Maddox detailed the ongoing process of establishing and operationalizing the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department's (LA Civil

Rights) Discrimination Enforcement Division with the aim to have initial roll out in the spring.

- Ms. Maddox noted a number of the department's community engagement and outreach events including:
  - ✓ "Breaking Bread with the NFL Media," an upcoming youth event on February 26, 2021.
  - ✓ "Policing in the Black Community," a private dialogue event with community members and the LAPD hosted by LA Civil Rights and the Human Relations Commission on January 21, 2021.
  - ✓ "Reaching LA City Immigrants: Responses and Resources during the COVID-19 Pandemic" hosted by LA Civil Rights and the Human Relations Commission on January 28, 2021.
- Ms. Maddox highlighted her participation with LA County Department of Public Health and COVID-19 equity efforts and shared that an additional 100,000 disposable masks and PPE are being distributed in partnership with community organizations.

## **VI. DIRECTOR OF ENFORCEMENT'S REPORT**

- Joumana Silyan-Saba shared LA Civil Rights development plans for a soft launch of the Discrimination Enforcement to include developing the case management system, workflow of the operation (i.e. staff responsibilities, intake assessment, and daily operations). She also noted the work with the Office of the City Attorney to finalize the Civil Rights Ordinance revisions to reflect City Council amendments and other edits.
- Ms. Silyan-Saba also provided an update on the division's outreach and engagement strategy for the initial soft rollout which includes developing outreach materials for internal and external stakeholders with the aim to prevent discriminatory practices through education and training, while also applying enforcement laws.
- Ms. Silyan-Saba noted that the department received more than 100 inquires and LA Civil Rights offers referrals even though the Discrimination Enforcement Division has not launched yet. She stated that these inquiries underscore the need and the department's role to prevent discriminatory practices and provide remedies.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** African American Equity in Media event on February 23, 2021 featuring Beverly White (NBC4), Brandon Brooks (Los Angeles Sentinel) and Angel Jennings (Los Angeles Times).

**II. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.