

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND
EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

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**HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION**

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IRENE TOVAR
BROOKE WIRTSCHAFTER

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2021, 12:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.
- Commissioners in Attendance: Anthony Mack, Stacey Twilley, Angelica Solis-Montero, Courtney Morgan-Green, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Herpsima Khatchadorian, Ysabel Jurado, Rosa Russell, Irene Tovar.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD: No public comment card or request were made during the time allotted for public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting minutes for July 28, 2021 were approved.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Executive Director Capri Maddox welcomed guest panelists for the City HRC's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage month special meeting. Ms. Maddox shared updates and highlights in reference to the LA FOR ALL Campaign which has been posted in over four thousand locations throughout the city including Recreation & Parks sites, bus shelters and on street banners.
- The LA Civil Rights Department has also secured additional sites for the "LA FOR ALL" signage and postings. Ms. Maddox mentioned that the Department has held on-going partnership conversations with the LA RAMS, USC and Cal State LA to secure additional billboard space and posting on assets owned by those organizations.
- Executive Director Maddox updated the board on the recent grand opening of the new home of the LA Civil Rights Department and the opening of the John Lewis Conference Center. She expressed appreciation and gratitude to commissioners that attended and made time to be there in person.
- Ms. Maddox also highlighted the recent "Know Your Rights Bystander Intervention Training" and expressed gratitude and appreciation to Commissioner Stacy Twilley for moderating one of the discussions.

- In addition, Ms. Maddox provided staffing updates and introduced the LA Civil Rights Department's new Assistant General Manager, Claudia Luna, who joined the Department officially in September 2021.

V. PRESENTATIONS:

- President Anthony Mack introduced Commission Vice-President Stacey Twilley to lead and moderate the panel in honor of Latino Heritage Month
- Vice-President Stacey Twilley highlighted the importance of Latino Heritage month. There were three speaker presentations, Celebrating advancements and contributions of Latinos to the growth of the City of Los Angeles, Youth and Immigration Leaders in Shaping the future of the Latino community in Los Angeles, and Latino/Latinx Communities and themes for future advancement in the 21st Century to strengthen communities.
- Dr. Fernando Guerra, Professor of Political Science and Chicana/o Studies, Loyola Marymount University provided opening remarks and offered his appreciation to the commission for the opportunity to share his work and present on Celebrating the advancements and contributions of Latinos to the growth of the City of Los Angeles. Dr. Guerra delivered a comprehensive presentation that focused on the growing economic, social and political power of the Latino/Latinx community in the region. His presentation highlighted that complex and ever-changing demographics that continue to change the region and the City power structure. Dr. Guerra also shared an overview of Loyola Marymount's recent objective data project with USC, UCLA and Cal State LA. The project is called the Latino Score Card and focuses on civic engagement and all aspects of the Latino community living in Los Angeles County. The link to Dr. Guerra's presentation can also be found here [[LMUstudyLAPresentation](#)]
- Eden Luna, Program Manager of the Los Angeles LGBT Center; Merlin Alvarado, LA Street Vendor presented on the role of Youth and Immigration Leaders in shaping the future of the Latino/Latinx community in Los Angeles. Eden Luna shared their experience as a transgender non-binary member of the Latin/e community. They shared details about growing up in the South East LA in a single parent immigrant household, their life experiences which were shaped by race, gender identity, immigration status, employment status, and community advocacy.
- Merlin Alvarado is a long time LA Street Vendor in the McArthur Park area. Ms. Alvarado was invited to present to the commission via her work with "Inclusive Action for the City" which is an advocacy organization assisting vendors with navigating both the City and County process as she tries to make a living. She currently operates a hotdog cart and a fruit cart. Ms. Alvarado shared her experiences as a street vendor and the hurdles that vendors faced before, during and after the pandemic. Ms. Alvarado advocated for better relationships with local law enforcement to increase safety at vending sites, increase aid and opportunities for vendor effected

by the pandemic, and work on minimizing vendor related hate crimes.

- Rudy Espinoza, Executive Director, Inclusive Action for the City, presented on Latino/Latinx Communities and themes for future advancements in the 21st Century to strengthen communities. Mr. Espinoza specializes in designing and managing place-based initiatives, building public private partnerships, and training the workforce to participate in the revitalization of their neighborhoods. Mr. Espinoza currently serves as a member of the Area Planning Commission. In his role as Executive Director, his organization provides loans and micro lending programs to businesses and communities that need capital. Rudy spends a lot of time advocating for local and state policies that positively impact the community. His organization has played a significant role in establishing the LA Street Vendor campaign which helps decriminalize street vending in Los Angeles. Mr. Espinoza ended with a call to action and encouraged commissioners to remain involved and engaged in vendor rights and advocacy work at the community level. In addition, he expressed his appreciation for the recent vendor advocacy and policy work being spearheaded by the Mayor's Office.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES: If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.