



The City of Los Angeles
**HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION**

September 23, 2020

Honorable Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, Second District
Chairman, Budget and Finance Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Budget and Finance Committee Chairman and Members:

The City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission (HRC) respectfully submits this letter supporting the full funding and backing of the newly formed Civil and Human Rights Department, led by Capri Maddox as Executive Director. The Civil and Human Rights Department (CHRD) will house key offices, programs, initiatives, as well as the newly launched Civil and Human Rights Commission (CHRC) and the Human Relations Commission (HRC), Transgender Advisory Council (TAC) under HRC, Commission on the Status of Women, and Equity and Empowerment (E2), and is tasked with addressing the long-standing discrimination impacting underserved and minority communities which denies equal treatment in commerce, education, employment, and housing. Ensuring that the Civil and Human Rights Department (CHRD) is fully funded is paramount, so that it may fulfill its mandate during a critical time of racial and social reckoning and healing in our City's history.

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) is equally as supportive of being housed under the Civil and Human Rights Department (CHRD) under the leadership of Capri Maddox the department's Executive Director. The HRC was established in the aftermath of the 1965 Watts civil unrest to shine a light on social and racial disparities, engage affected communities, facilitate dialogue, explore solutions, and advocate to change policy. Throughout the decades there has been great progress, sadly, followed by a resurgence of escalating hate and inequity in our nation. HRC has continued to pursue these ideals of social justice even as some forces in our society continue to stoke the fires of division and tribalism. Black Americans in the U.S. have disproportionately been the targets. In 2019, HRC addressed the issue of policing African Americans by bringing together community members from South L.A. to provide them with new pathways for their voices to be heard and openly discuss their concerns, then providing this to City leadership through an extensive report. HRC's work also includes convening leaders from diverse faith communities to celebrate and examine the power of pluralism to unify and mobilize us behind important civic issues. We have also dealt with the issue of Hate Crimes in the Mexican/Latinx American and immigrant communities, hearing from young people and highlighting the power of neighbors to rally around each other in the face of adversity. And, with the onset of COVID-19, HRC

is developing an initiative addressing the escalation of Anti-Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Hate Crimes.

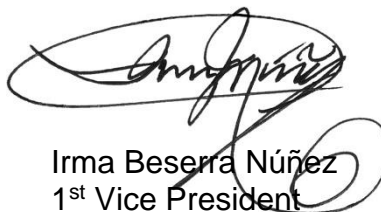
Following the civil unrest sparked by the horrific murders of Black Americans, L.A. City leaders announced plans to identify \$250 million from all departments to invest in major transformative, structural reform, policy change, and to develop programs through the LAPD and other departments that support youth, low-income, and communities of color to promote social justice, dialogue, restorative justice, close the racial wealth gap, and other disparities - addressing the concerns and demands of protesters and community leaders. A key component to bringing these plans to life was the expedited establishment of the new Civil and Human Rights Department (CHRD) and Civil and Human Rights Commission (CHRC), which will provide all Angelenos the ability to report civil and human rights violations that will be heard by a commission with adjudicative authority. The Human Relations Commission (HRC) is looking forward to working under this new department as part of a team where we will continue to play a key role in engaging all stakeholders as we chart a path of racial healing and reconciliation.

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) stands firmly in our commitment to support the success of the Civil and Human Rights Department (CHRD). We strongly request that the City Council Budget and Finance Committee support the full funding of the CHRD as a key component to the department's success in helping to create sustainable systemic and structural social change.

Sincerely,



Angelica Solis-Montero
President



Irma Beserra Núñez
1st Vice President



Anthony B. Mack I
2nd Vice President

Cc:

Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr., Council Member, Council District 9 (Vice Committee Chair)

Hon. Paul Koretz, Council Member, Council District 5

Hon. Bob Blumenfield Council Member, Council District 3

Hon. Mike Bonin, Council Member, Council District 11

Clerk, Budget and Finance Committee