Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2019, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
200 North Spring Street, Room 1070

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
The Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by President Morgan-Greene. Quorum was met.


Commissioners Absent: Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca, Amna Qazi

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Commissioners welcomed the newest Commissioner, Herpsima “Houri” Khatchadorian.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 22, 2019 Minutes were approved.
June 26, 2019 Minutes were approved.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA
There was no public comment.

V. TRANSGENDER ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES
TAC Monthly Status Report – Karina Samala

In June Ms. Samala spoke at the Stonewall Inn in New York commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. She shared some of her remarks with Commissioners. In September she will be at the Transgender Visibility March in Washington.

The Midnight Stroll will take place in September (not in August). The LAPD Community Forum is set up for September or October, depending on Chief Girmala’s availability. The TAC wants to create Know Your Rights cards for transgender individuals to understand their voting rights.

The TAC is also planning to take a one day trip to Tijuana in partnership with SALEF and CD 13 to see the conditions of LGBT and particularly transgender immigrants at the border.

The TAC is also planning Transgender Awareness Month on November 8 in City Council Chambers and a celebration that night at the Ace Theater.
VI. Action Items

HRC Elections: Commissioner Nominations and Vote by ballot
Motions to approve selected candidates for President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President
- Nominees and nominators gave statements.
- Courtney-Morgan Greene was elected as President.
- Angelica Solis-Montero was elected as 1st Vice President.
- Irma Beserra Núñez was elected as 2nd Vice President

Discuss victory of the soccer team “South Los Angeles Legends” in the national American Youth Soccer Organization Championship

Motion to approve a letter on behalf of the Commission congratulating the South Los Angeles Legends for their victory in the AYSO Championship
- The letter was approved with two edits to punctuation and an addition of “keep dreaming” at the end.

Discussion about conditions of detention of undocumented immigrants

Motion to sign on to the Statement of International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies and Individual Local and State Government Human Rights Agencies Condemning the Conditions of Detention of Undocumented Immigrants
- The New York Human Rights Commission contacted the HRC and is approaching other human rights and human relations agencies around the country to sign on to a letter condemning the awful conditions in immigrant detention centers.
- Commissioners expressed their strong support for the letter, and their concern for the intolerable human rights violations being committed by the federal government on detained children. They also discussed the detrimental effects federal immigration policies have on immigrant, Latino, and Mexican residents of Los Angeles. For example, using the term “Police” on the backs of ICE jackets causes confusion and a rift between communities and local law enforcement.
- Commissioners discussed the possibility of visiting the US-Mexico border as a delegation in order to see the crisis for themselves. They discussed the possibility of traveling alongside Council District 13 and ways to report back to the full Commission within the bounds of the Brown Act. They also discussed the need to know where detention centers are within City boundaries. Commissioners discussed how local Latino communities are particularly impacted and targeted by this issue, causing students to fear going to school and other serious mental health consequences. This issue also affects the Sikh community and many others. They emphasized that this is the moral issue of our time.
- Commissioners discussed creating an Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration to address this issue. They also discussed re-launching the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration that was originally formed last year to track the City’s activities with relation to this issue.
- The board unanimously voted to sign on to the proposed letter.

VII. Information and Updates

2019 Progress Report – Maia Ferdman
The purpose of this report is to review what has been accomplished so far this year, help guide the activities for the rest of the year, and inform the 2019 annual report.

The HRC held three interfaith events in the span of six weeks, which engaged about 350 people (with some overlapping guests). The HRC collaborated with all three citywide elected offices, the LAPD, about six Council Offices, and various community organizations.

In addition, the HRC took part in various other activities that engaged with communities throughout the City. Thirty students of the Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Healing Ambassadors Program visited Boyle Heights. The HRC held six dinner dialogues this year in South LA with African American community members, engaging 64 participants (26 youth and 38 adults). Four out of five Police Commissioners attended. Shoulder to Shoulder was launched in partnership with the City Attorney. The Boyle Heights Trust Collaborative met multiple times. The TAC received funding for the Midnight Stroll from CD 13 and is working with the Personnel Department on its transgender sensitivity training video.

The HRC hosted various presentations from City entities, including the LAPD Mental Evaluation Unit, the Department on Disability, and the LA County HRC Anti-Hate Campaign. Commissioners were present at various other community activities and press conferences, and HCIDLA staff was trained in implicit bias.

The board approved its 2018 annual report and its bylaws, and it participated in the HCIDLA Commissions Summit.

Ms. Ferdman also reviewed some of the expected activities for the rest of the year, including the budget committee’s report, an approved communications plan, the finalized Police Dinner Dialogues report, and others.

The Not in Our Town Film Screening is also scheduled at Mission College for September 28. Commissioners Tovar and Beserra Núñez shared details about this event, which is being held in partnership with LAUSD Board Member Kelly Gonez.

The board discussed the need to constantly track progress and create explicit measures of success for initiatives. A more robust discussion of upcoming activities will take place at the HRC board retreat.

Discuss the City’s efforts to recruit African American officers to the Los Angeles Police Department

Ms. Ferdman said she spoke with Manny Lopez from the Mayor’s Office of Public Safety about the LAPD’s current recruitment efforts. She said he shared that this issue is a priority for both the Mayor’s Office and LAPD. They launched a task force that set concrete recruitment goals and are implementing a multi-prong strategy to meet those goals. They also received a donation from the Police Foundation to implement a large-scale recruitment campaign as well.

Commissioners discussed the importance of community representation on the LAPD and some of the existing barriers that prevent communities of color and African Americans specifically from joining the force. They also expressed their gratitude to be able to participate in the LAPD Graduations. Ms. Ferdman will work with Mr. Lopez to schedule a presentation on this issue.

Update on the development of a Communications Protocol – Commissioner Morgan-Greene

The Communications Protocol draft will be ready for discussion by the next meeting.
Discussion of HRC financial history, trust fund processes, and goals for Budget Ad Hoc Committee – Francisco Ortega

- The Commission reviewed the HRC’s Trust Fund balance over time, and discussed potential goals for the Budget Ad Hoc Committee. They expressed the need for a clear fundraising target and a path to get there within the rules and regulations set forth by the Mayor’s Office.

Shoulder to Shoulder Ad Hoc Committee Update – Maia Ferdman

- Ms. Ferdman shared a one page summary of the Shoulder to Shoulder program concept. She has met with the City Attorney’s Office and their Interfaith Collective to gain their input as well, and will update the committee to discuss next steps.

VIII. HCIDLA UPDATES (5 min)

Save the Dates:
- August: Commission Meetings will not be held; Committee meetings ongoing
  - Executive Team
  - Shoulder to Shoulder Ad Hoc Committee
  - Dinner Dialogue Pilot Program Ad Hoc Committee
  - Budget and Fundraising Ad Hoc Committee
- August 2, August 30, Ongoing: HRC Presence at LAPD Graduations

IX. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Beserra Núñez visit to El Centro de Ayuda FamilySource Center

- Commissioner Beserra Núñez shared her experiences from her visit to the FamilySource Center. She shared various materials about the services provided at the network of 16 centers. She discussed how the services can be life-changing for families, providing services like financial literacy training, case management, fair housing workshops, college corners, and many more. They have continued to function despite having less federal funding than in the past. Commissioner Beserra Núñez recommended that all Commissioners have this experience.

- Olivia Mitchell, Assistant Chief Grants Administrator, shared that the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is currently withholding what amounts to $140 million in CDBG funds because of a long-term negotiation around ADA compliance in housing developments. She shared a memo from General Manager Rushmore Cervantes with more details, and said they would share more updates with Commissioners as the situation develops.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners gave input about future items they would like to see included on the agenda.
- These included a robust update on the Boyle Heights Trust Collaborative and a discussion of participation in the King Day Parade. Homelessness was also suggested as a potential future agenda item.

XI. NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

September 25, 2019, 12-2 pm in City Hall Room 1070

Commission and Community Engagement Meetings:
Community Action Board: Thursday, August 8, 10:00am-12:00pm, Room 1050
Rent Adjustment Commission: Thursday August 8, 12:00 pm at Hearing Room at 1200 W 7th Street
Commission on Community & Family Services: Monday September 2, 9:30-11:30 am, Room 1060
Affordable Housing Commission: Wednesday September 18, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Room 1070
Transgender Advisory Council: Thursday September 19, 6pm-8pm, City Hall East Room 351
Commission on the Status of Women: Friday, September 20, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Room 1010

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.
Meeting attachments:
• HRC Meeting Minutes (May and June)
• Ballots for HRC Executive Team
• Letter of Congratulations for AYSO Champions
• IOHRA Letter Condemning Conditions in Detention Centers
• 2019 Progress Report Handout
• HRC Trust Fund – Ordinance & Current Budget
• CSW Spending Policy
• Shoulder to Shoulder Draft Program Overview