Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 25, 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 Present: Courtney Morgan-Greene, Angelica Solis-Montero, Irma Beserra Núñez, Anthony Mack, Mark Rothman, Rosa Russell, Irene Tovar, Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca, Amna Qazi

Commissioners Absent: Nirinjan Singh Khalsa, Herpsima Khatchadorian,

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Remarks on shootings in El Paso and Dayton – Commissioner Beserra Núñez
Hispanic Heritage Month, Jewish High Holidays, Eid al-Adha

- Commissioner Beserra Núñez shared remarks about the terrible tragedies in El Paso and Dayton, the effects of hatred in general, and the hatred faced by Mexican and Latino communities, including lynchings, and the dangers of gun violence.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 24, 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

- Ms. Samala shared that she will be going to Washington D.C. for the National Trans Visibility March and to meet with various Congressional representatives to discuss policies affecting the transgender community.
- LAPD is holding an LGBTQ forum tonight. Transgender Awareness Month, and Transgender Day of Visibility will take place in City Council on November 8. Ms. Samala also discussed efforts being undertaken around Census 2020 turnout.
- The TAC is still searching for a new member to fill their board vacancy.

VI. Action Items

Discussion and Motion to create Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration

- Commissioners discussed the different potential purposes and functions of this Ad Hoc Committee.
• Some Commissioners expressed frustration that this issue has been tabled for a long time, and reviewed some of the reasons it was tabled.
• In a thorough and wide-ranging exchange, Commissioners discussed the different approaches and specific outcomes this Ad Hoc Committee would be tasked with completing. There was discussion about immigration affecting Mexicans, Mexican Americans, and Latinos in unique and urgent ways.
• Commissioners discussed continuing to organize an immigration forum, planning for which began last year and was stalled. Commissioners said that this Committee should also evaluate what other efforts have been done in the City since then to determine the best course of action in this realm and allow room for additional efforts outside of a forum. They discussed potential language for the motion that would satisfy these ideas and fit within the definition of an Ad Hoc Committee (a specifically defined/limited or single purpose, not existing in perpetuity/have a clear timeline, and dissolve once the specific task/purpose is completed).
• The language for the following motion was proposed: “Motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration to explore and carry out initiatives including a forum”
• The motion was approved. Commissioners Tovar, Beserra Núñez, Morgan-Greene, Qazi and Dela Cruz-Viesca populated the Committee.

VII. Information and Updates

Review of HRC Report on the Community Dinner Dialogue Pilot Program in South Los Angeles to be delivered to Police Commission
• Ms. Ferdman shared the results of the report on the Community Dinner Dialogue Program with Commissioners.
• The report is in two parts. First, she discussed the small dinner dialogue methodology, which brought together people who do not necessarily participate in other avenues to provide public input about policing. This methodology was successful in eliciting honest and meaningful community input.
• She also shared the second part of the report, the findings of the dinners, which was completed in partnership with Professor Greenwald from USC.
• She answered Commissioners’ questions about the methodology and findings, and requested that Commissioners read the full report and send comments before the next meeting, when there will be a vote to approve it.
• She clarified that the HRC’s role is not meant to prove or disprove what the community participants shared or believed, but rather to accurately communicate their perceptions and ideas to the LAPD and Police Commission.

Review of Draft Commissions Communications Protocol
• This item was tabled to the next meeting. Commissioners requested to review the draft protocol and send any comments to Ms. Ferdman before the next meeting, when there will be a vote to approve it.

Presentation on March 3 elections and process – Representatives from the Office of the City Clerk
• This item was tabled. Olivia Mitchell, Assistant Chief Grants Administrator, announced that elections processes will be changing this year, and said to mark calendars for the mock
election this weekend. City Clerk representatives will be present at the HRC’s September 28 Film Screening with Not In Our Town to register people to vote.

Update on Boyle Heights Trust Collaborative & Recommendations for Next Steps – Francisco Ortega

- Mr. Ortega provided a detailed history of the Collaborative’s origins and the arc of its existence. He also discussed how the Collaborative started with discussions of trust and policing, but that conversations expanded to include issues like housing displacement and gentrification.
- He described different challenges to the Collaborative, such as the HRC’s lack of capacity to be the primary convener of the group for an indeterminate amount of time or be immersed in the community the way they used to be. It was also not tied to an existing City structure or Council Committee, meaning that their work was harder to elevate to the policy level.
- He also described opportunities for next steps in Boyle Heights. He suggested expanding programs like the dinner dialogues to Boyle Heights and utilizing Commissioner Committees to engage more deeply in communities like Boyle Heights.
- Commissioners suggested following up on this conversation in future meetings to determine a plan of action and perhaps budget for this effort.

VIII. HCIDLA UPDATES (5 min)

Save the Dates:
- Commissioner Beserra Núñez announced details about the HRC’s Screening with Not in Our Town at LA Mission College on Saturday September 28 with the partnership of LAUSD Board Member Kelly Gonez.
- September 25: LGBTQ LAPD Community Forum
- September 28: Not In Our Town Film Screening at Mission College
- October 1: Consolidated Plan Community Meeting
- October 4: HRC Board Retreat
- October 14: Indigenous Peoples Day
- October 24-26: ReelAbilities Film Festival
- October 10, November 18: TRHT Implicit Bias Training for Government, Business, Philanthropy
- November 8: TRHT Implicit Bias Training for Nonprofit
- November 8: Transgender Day of Remembrance at City Council
- September 27, October 25, Ongoing: HRC Presence at LAPD Graduations

IX. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XI. NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

Special Meeting October 4, 2019, 9am-2pm in City Hall East 351, October 23, 2019, 12-2 pm in City Hall Room 1070

Commission and Community Engagement Meetings:
Commission on the Status of Women: Friday, September 27, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Room 1010
Commission on Community & Family Services: Monday October 7, 9:30-11:30 am, Room 1060
Rent Adjustment Commission: Thursday October 10, 12:00 pm at Hearing Room at 1200 W 7th Street
Affordable Housing Commission: Wednesday October 16, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Room 1070
Transgender Advisory Council: Thursday October 17, 6pm-8pm, City Hall East Room 351

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Meeting attachments:
  - July Meeting Minutes
  - Community Dinner Dialogue Pilot Program Report
  - Communications Protocol
  - City Clerk Flyer
  - “Your Neighborhood, Your Future” Community Meeting Flyer
  - Save the Dates