

**CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
DEPARTMENT**

200 N. Spring Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 978-8354  
www.civilandhumanrights.lacity.org

**CAPRI MADDOX**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA**



**ERIC GARGETTI**  
MAYOR

**CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSIONERS**

Araceli Campos, Chair  
Leslie Ivie, Vice Chair  
Aziza Hasan  
Helena Marissa Montes  
Maegan E. Ortiz  
Keith Parker  
Abigail Zelenski

**CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

September 10, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

- Meeting called to order at 2:01 p.m. and roll call provided by Joumana Silyan-Saba.
- Commissioners in Attendance: Araceli Campos, Aziza Hasan, Leslie Ivie, Helena Marissa Montes, Maegan E. Ortiz, Keith Parker, and Abigail Zelenski

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August meeting minutes approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No public comments were made.

**IV. PRESENTATION**

- Commissioner Campos introduced Professor Victor Narro from UCLA's Department of Labor Studies and Chicano Studies.
- Professor Narro provided an overview and background research that helped inform the City's formulation and development of Civil and Human Rights Commission (CHRC). He noted the grassroots advocacy efforts and highlighted key research findings and best practices from civil and human rights commissions across the United States, including New York, Seattle, Washington, and Chicago, among other cities.
- Professor Narro also noted that the research was provided to the City's Chief Legislative Analyst to further analyze the scope, outline the discrimination enforcement process, and tailor development to fit the specific needs and unique make-up of the City.
- Professor Narro concluded by emphasizing the importance of the community partnerships and collaborative approaches.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Executive Director Maddox thanked the commissioners for their service and provided updates on the upcoming budget process, as well as department programmatic efforts.
- Executive Director Maddox highlighted several outreach efforts including the upcoming Stand Up Against Hate forum hosted by The Human Relations Commission’s Transgender Advisory Council, the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council (VANC) meeting, LA Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (LAANC), and an interview appearance on Good Day LA on Fox 11. Executive Director Maddox emphasized that these efforts work towards ensuring community engagement and raising the profile of the Civil and Human Rights Department (CHRD).
- Executive Director Maddox noted that intentionality in integrating commissions work is important to the overall effort of CHRD to serve communities in need on various issues. She asked the commissioners to think through how the three commissions can work together towards serving and empowering communities.
- Executive Director Maddox also shared that there is still a pending motion by Councilmember Cedillo to finalize the development of the department, transfer the Human Relations Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women to CHRD, adopt a budget to fill staff positions, as well as provide additional resources for the discrimination enforcement division. Executive Director Maddox highlighted the high need for the discrimination enforcement division, especially because CHRD has already received calls from individuals in need of services.

**VI. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

- Commissioner Campos reported on the meeting with Executive Director Maddox and Ms. Silyan-Saba in order to promote team-building and strategic planning on the CHRC.
- Commissioner Campos emphasized the importance of building relations and provided a space for Commissioners to get to know one another in a virtual space in lieu of in-person activities that would normally take place in a non-COVID-19 setting. Commissioners participated in a “get to know you’ activity and shared a glimpse about their individual backgrounds, work areas, and areas of advocacy/passion and current projects.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Executive Director Maddox reminded Commissioners of the upcoming Transgender Hate Crime Prevention event on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m. Next meeting is set for 2:00 p.m. on October 8<sup>th</sup>.