

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND
EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

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**Human Relations Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2021, 12:00 - 2:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM. Roll call provided by Francisco Ortega, Senior Project Coordinator, CHRED.
- Commissioners in Attendance: Courtney Morgan Greene, Anthony Mack, Irma Nunez, Angelica Solis-Montero, Rosa Russell, Melany de La Cruz Viesca, Stacy Twilley.

II. Public Comment Period: No comments were made.

III. APPROVAL OF Minutes: January 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Maddox delivered updates on various events and activities within the department.

- She announced that the CHRED was awarded a Fuse Fellowship and estimated that this award is valued at over \$200,000.
- She highlighted that the Department has been considered as a finalist for the Public Rights Project.
- Ms. Maddox also reported that the City Council is introducing a motion to include the Office of Racial Equity within the CHRED.
- She also provided updates on the on-going construction of the new CHRED office location.

V. PRESENTATIONS IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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- **Faye Washington, President, and CEO of the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles:** Ms. Washington is a nationally recognized nonprofit professional and leader in the field of non-profit management. She's received numerous recognitions and awards, and among her many accomplishments is the creation of the Urban Campus. Ms. Washington's remarks centered historical obstacles faced by African Americans in Los Angeles with an emphasis on her work on empowering equitable change within local government and city entities. Her presentation was well received by the board.
- **Dr. Thomas Parham, president of Cal State University:** Dr. Parham, who is affectionately known as a licensed psychologist, has more than 35 years of experience as a scholar and mental health practitioner. Dr. Parham presented an overview of the Black experience in Los Angeles within the last thirty years, by providing a personal account and reflection of the history of Los Angeles. Dr. Parham emphasized the need to address social trauma with particular attention to African American men and boys. He closed the presentation by expressing personal optimism and hope for the future.
- **Dr. David Carlisle, President, and CEO of Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science:** Dr. Carlisle is a published author who has devoted his career to eliminating health disparities and increasing African American representation within the medical field. He highlighted the personal journey of Charles Drew and how he came to be the face of the university after the Watts civil unrest. He specifically focused on the health challenges facing communities of color and the partnerships the university is developing to serve underserved communities. Dr. Carlisle's presentation focused on current issues facing the African American community on this health front. Dr. Carlisle reflected on the great progress Charles Drew University has made in addressing these disparities health and social disparities. He elaborated on the legacy of Charles Drew and the lasting impact of Dr. Martin Luther King.
- **Reverend Najuma Smith-Pollard, Director, USC Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement:** Reverend Smith-Pollard is a community leader and pastor who uses her expertise to train other pastors to be civically engaged. Reverend Smith-Pollard's presentation focused on issues of joblessness and various other disparities impacting local communities as we look to the future. She reflected on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King and the future of race relations in Los Angeles. She concluded by urging the HRC commissioners to be present and active members in the continuous cycle of change in the city of Los Angeles.
- **Dr. Marcus Hunter, UCLA African American Studies Professor:** Professor Hunter is the Scott Waugh Endowed Chair in the Division of the Social Sciences, Associate professor in sociology, and Chair of the Department of African American Studies at UCLA. His remarks focused on highlighting collaborative efforts to bring attention to

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civil and human rights issues in the areas of land dispossession, mass incarceration, and housing discrimination. His presentation focused on the idea of rebranding racial healing and transformation. Dr. Hunter is working closely to develop a truth, racial healing, and transformation legislation at the state level.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Capri Maddox to keynote at the upcoming LA City Association of Black Personnel.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM.