

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND
EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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1ST VICE PRESIDENT

MELANY DE LA CRUZ-VIESCA
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ROSA RUSSELL
MARIA ROMAN-TAYLORSON
IRENE TOVAR
STACY TWILLEY
BROOKE WIRTSCHAFTER

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Angelica Solis-Montero called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. along with, 1st Vice President Courtney Morgan-Greene, 2nd Vice President Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, and Commissioners Nirinjin Singh Khalsa, Rosa Russell, Irene Tovar, Stacy Twilley and Brooke Wirtschafter in attendance.

Commissioner Herpsima Khatchadorian was absent.

Those also in attendance included Capri Maddox, General Manager; Claudia Luna, Assistant General Manager; Barak Vaughn, Deputy City Attorney; Francisco Ortega, Senior Project Coordinator; Liliana Villa, Human Relations Advocate, and James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II.

A quorum was established and the meeting proceeded.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment period was opened. There were no speakers to address the Commission, so the public comment period was closed.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission discussed the minutes of the January 25, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Tovar seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Russell
Seconded: Tovar
Ayes: Morgan-Greene, Solis-Montero, Twilley, De La Cruz-Viesca, Wirschafter
Abstain: Khalsa
Absent: Khatchadorian

Vote: 8 - 0

The motion passed.

4. DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB-361

The continuation of teleconference meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 (AB-361) was discussed by the Commission.

Commissioner Morgan-Greene made a motion to continue holding Commission meetings via teleconference pursuant to AB-361. Commissioner Twilley seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Morgan-Greene
Seconded: Twilley
Ayes: Khalsa, Solis-Montero, Russell, Tovar, De La Cruz-Viesca, Wirschafter
Absent: Khatchadorian

Vote: 8 - 0

The motion passed.

5. DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Capri Maddox, General Manager, Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, gave an update on the Department's activities and goals. Director Maddox shared the LA Civil Rights Overview Deck for February 2023. This presentation can be viewed at civilandhumanrights.lacity.org. She introduced Department new-hires Francia Bent, Rashad Clay, Liliana Villa, Tom Scott. GM Maddox spoke about the anti-semitic hate shooting in the Pico-Robertson area. In response, she joined LAPD Chief Michael Moore at an Anti-Defamation League meeting. She also attended a Jewish Federation event with Mayor Karen Bass and Civil Rights staff member Joumana Sylan-Saba. She noted that Mayor Bass toured the Civil Rights Department yesterday.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Black History Month Presentations – “Black Resistance”

- a. Professor Gaye Theresa Johnson, Department of African American Studies and Chicana(o) Studies, UCLA held a conversation on the history of Black Resistance.
- b. Dr. Cheyenne Bryant, Psychology Expert, President of the NAACP San Pedro/Wilmington Branch 1069 gave a presentation on Black Joy as Resistance.

- c. Karen Mack, CEO, LA Commons was joined by students who presented the highlights and successes of their community-based program.
- d. Discussion of the Creation of Ad hoc Committees for the Commission's Goals in 2023. This conversation was continued to the following meeting on April 26, 2023.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barak Vaughn, Deputy City Attorney spoke on the provisions of AB-2449 and the subsequent return to in-person public meetings. Commissioner Solis-Montero encouraged everyone to listen to the three installations of the Forward Together Broadcasts on Apple and Spotify.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.