

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY
DEPARTMENT**

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COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

HELENA MARISSA MONTES
CHAIR

ABIGAIL ZELENSKI
VICE CHAIR

AZIZA HASAN
MARY M. LEE
KANDEE LEWIS
KEITH PARKER
NATALIE SAMARJIAN

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Commission Vice Chair Marissa Montes called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. along with Commissioners Aziza Hasan, Kandee Lewis, Keith Parker, Natalie Samarjian and Abigail Zelenski in attendance. Commissioner Samarjian was forced to leave the Zoom meeting at 2:30 p.m. due to technical challenges.

Also in attendance, were Capri Maddox, General Manager; Claudia Luna, Assistant General Manager; Heather Aubry, Special Assistant City Attorney; Ruth Kwon, Deputy City Attorney IV; Joumana Silyan-Saba, Director of Policy & Discrimination Enforcement; 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 but there were no speakers to address the Commission, therefore public comment was closed.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the October 18, 2022, December 8, 2022, January 5, 2023 and January 26, 2023 Commission meetings.

Commissioner Zelenski made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Zelenski

Seconded: Parker

Ayes: Hasan, Lewis, Montes, Samarjian

Vote: 6 - 0

The motion passed.

4. BLACK HERITAGE MONTH PRESENTATION:

Ambassador Michael A. Lawson, Chair of the Reparations Commission was the guest speaker and he shared a wonderfully candid presentation and offered to answer questions from the Commissioners.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a. Capri Maddox, Executive Director and General Manager, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, shared the Department update. She responded to questions about the events that she attended and the work that was completed since the last meeting.
- b. Joumana Silyan-Saba, Director of Discrimination Enforcement, gave the Discrimination Enforcement Update. She introduced the Investigators of the Discrimination Enforcement team. Lilian Calderon, Thomas Scott, Rashad Clay, Olivia Ibarra, and Tim Frederick. She announced Kim Kasreliovich as the new Assistant General Manager to lead the Discrimination Enforcement effort. She read the statistics for the 348 inquiries that her staff has reviewed so far.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and that the circumstances of the state of emergency continue to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Commissioner Zelenski made a motion to continue holding Commission meetings via teleconference in accordance with AB 361. Commissioner Hasan, seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Zelenski
Seconded: Hasan
Ayes: Lewis, Montes, Parker
Absent: Samarjian
Vote: 5 - 0

The motion passed.

b. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Commission discussed the election of a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Montes nominated herself as the Commission Chair. She followed her nomination with a compelling justification. Commissioner Parker made a motion to elect Commissioner Montes as the Commission Chair. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Parker
Seconded: Lewis
Ayes: Hasan, Montes, Zelenski
Absent: Samarjian

Vote: 5 - 0

The motion passed.

Commissioner Hasan nominated Commissioner Abigail Zelenski as Vice Chair. She summarized her reasoning for the nomination and made a motion to elect Commissioner Zelenski as the Commission Vice Chair. Commissioner Montes seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Hasan
Seconded: Montes
Ayes: Lewis, Parker, Zelenski
Absent: Samarjian

Vote: 5 - 0

The motion passed.

8. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- a. Commissioner Montes shared an update on the Outreach and Engagement Ad hoc Committee; and
- b. Commissioner Abigail Zelenski gave an update on the Discrimination Definition and Training Resources Ad hoc Committee.

9. ANOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Lewis announced a prom dress and tuxedo giveaway that she supports in South Los Angeles. The venue is the Bee Hive and it hosts an event that serves 300 to 500 female youth. All of the clothing is in new condition and is given to the young women at no charge. They are allowed to choose their own outfit regardless of how they self-identify.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES: If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.