

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

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**BROOKE WIRTSCHAFTER**

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
John Lewis Conference Center  
April 26, 2023

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Angelica Solis-Montero called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. along with 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Courtney Morgan-Greene, and Commissioners, Rosa Russell, Maria Roman-Taylorson, and Brooke Wirtschafter in attendance.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Melany De La Cruz-Viesca arrived at 12:18 p.m.

Commissioners Nirinjin Singh Khalsa, Herpsima Khatchadorian, Irene Tovar and Stacy Twilley were 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 and Dr. Truth Bey addressed the Commission. There were no other speakers so public comment was closed.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Commission discussed the minutes of the March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Morgan-Greene made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Solis-Montero seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

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

Vote: 6 - 0

The motion was passed on consent.

**4. DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Claudia Luna, Assistant General Manager, Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, gave an update on the Department's activities and goals. She shared the LA Civil Rights Overview Deck for April 2023. This presentation can be viewed at [civilandhumanrights.lacity.org](http://civilandhumanrights.lacity.org). Kim Kasreliovich, Assistant General Manager introduced herself and briefly spoke about the work of the Discrimination Enforcement section.

**5. PRESENTATION**

In honor of Arab-American Heritage Month, Loubna Qutami, Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian-American Studies at UCLA shared a remarkable presentation on the Arab-American Community in Los Angeles.

**6. TAC REPORT**

Karina Samala, Chair of the Transgender Advisory Council gave an update on the recent activities of the TAC. She spoke about their goals and upcoming events and noted that the Marsha P. Johnson stamp initiative was passed. She stated that trainings with LAPD have improved relations between the police and the transgender community.

**7. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. Commissioner Morgan-Greene spoke about the progress of the Young Adult Dinner Dialogues where community members were asked a series of questions about their interaction with the police and were given an opportunity to share their experiences and emotional reactions. The community offered suggestions on improving relationships with the Police Department.
- b. Commissioner Morgan-Greene gave an overview of the accomplishments of the Forward Together Ad hoc, which partnered with the civic and community leaders to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1992 Civil Unrest and highlight the relationship between the Korean and African-American communities.

Commissioner Morgan-Greene highlighted some differences in the points of view between the Korean Community and the African-American Community, (regarding the 1992 Civil Unrest in South Los Angeles) with the killing of 15-year-old Latasha Harlins as the most contentious point. Both groups ultimately expressed solidarity in moving forward together. On behalf of the Human Relations Commission, Commissioner Morgan-Greene recommended that the Mayor's Office and the City Council adopt a resolution containing a series of healing and empowering acknowledgements.

The Project “Forward Together” included a leadership dialogue series, a podcast series business guide, a symposium, community events, online events and a calendar resource. She noted that the Forward Together podcast series was produced by a collaboration between Commissioner Twilley and USC students. She thanked her fellow Commissioners in the group, Angelica Solis-Montero, Rosa Russell, Stacy Twilley and Brooke Wirtschafter along with Department staff Claudia Luna, Francisco Ortega, Mark Pampanin, Sheldon Cruz and Tajwar Khan.

- c. Commissioner De La Cruz-Viesca reported on the “LA for All” Ad hoc and its sunset (closing). The LA for All campaign was launched in 2021 to combat Asian hate crimes, hate speech and xenophobia. The message was so strong that it reached communities across Los Angeles and even nationwide as well as globally. In 2022, the “LA for All” Ad hoc was formed to commemorate the award-winning LA for All campaign’s first year anniversary.

The Ad hoc’s accomplishments include the LA for All Week celebration which culminated with the Civil Rights Department’s colors being lit up at some of LA’s most iconic buildings, a Cal-State LA Art showcase featuring Student art for “LA for All” and a celebration at La Memorias Park (Lincoln Park). She thanked her fellow Commissioners Ysabel Jurada and Herpsima Khatachadorian, Angelica Solis-Montero along with Department staff Claudia Luna, Mayra Medel, Mark Pampanin and Sheldon Cruz. Commissioner De La Cruz-Viesca closed out this Ad hoc and recommended that future Human Relations Commissions continue to recognize and commemorate the LA for All campaign.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Farewell and thanks were given to our out-going Commissioners. Commissioner De La Cruz-Viesca’s 15 years of service was highlighted. Francisco Ortega mentioned the LAPD monthly Graduations and the need for HRC Commissioners to sign-up to hand out awards to members of LAPD’s graduating class. Karina Samala noted a fund raiser on May 13, 2023 for Casa de Luz a program that provides shelter and health care and has supported over 200 LGBTQ+ people.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.