

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY
DEPARTMENT**

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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

VACANT
CHAIR

ABIGAIL ZELENSKI
VICE CHAIR

MARY M. LEE
KANDEE LEWIS
HOANG NGUYEN
CINDY PANUCO
DIANE ROBERTSON
NATALIE SAMARJIAN

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Commission Vice Chair Abigail Zelenski called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. along with Commissioners Mary Lee, Hoang Nguyen, Cindy Panuco, and Diane Robertson in attendance.

Commissioners Kandee Lewis and Natalie Samarjian were absent from this meeting.

Also in attendance, were Capri Maddox, General Manager; Claudia Luna, Assistant General Manager; Kim Kasreliovich, Assistant General Manager; Heather Aubry, Assistant City Attorney; 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 April 13, 2023 Regular Commission meeting and approved the minutes by consent.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a. Capri Maddox, Executive Director and General Manager, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, gave the Department update. She shared the presentation deck for June 2023 which can be viewed on the Department's website. Some of the highlights of her discussion were the Pride Month celebration; and the Jewish Heritage Month celebration which was led by Joumana Silyan-Saba, featuring the film Devorah's Hope. The Pioneer Women Awards for 15 women nominated by each Council District. GM Maddox closed by speaking about the Repair Zones and the Peace and Healing Centers.

- b. Kim Kasreliovich, Assistant General Manager, gave the Discrimination Enforcement Update and spoke on the outreach, plans and activities of the DE team. She shared new poster artwork and responded to questions from the Commission. Joumana Silyan-Saba spoke on the various Open-House events that are planned to introduce stakeholders and partners to meet the team and understand the services provided.

5. PRESENTATION: LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Alex Rhodes Alex Rhodes (she/they), GLSEN LA shared an overview of the services that GLSEN provides for the LGBTQIA+ community. An organization where our own Mark Pampanin serves as an Officer.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS: The Elections of Officers

- a. Commissioner Nguyen made a motion to nominate Abigail Zelenski as the Commission Chair. Commissioner Zelenski accepted the nomination. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Nguyen
Seconded: Lee
Ayes: Panuco, Robertson, Zelenski
Absent: Parker, Samarjian

Vote: 5 - 0

The motion passed.

- b. Commissioner Robertson made a motion to appoint Mary M. Lee as the Commission Vice Chair. Commissioner Lee accepted the nomination. Commissioner Nguyen seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Robertson
Seconded: Nguyen
Ayes: Lee, Panuco, Zelenski
Absent: Parker, Samarjian

Vote: 5 - 0

The motion passed.

7. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Commissioner Abigail Zelenski gave an update on the Discrimination Definition and Training Resources Ad hoc Committee. Tasked with defining Discrimination, this is a collaboration with Discrimination Enforcement Team, the City Attorney and Commissioners with the goal to create training resources. The work has been divided into three modules. Module one is the general overview of Discrimination Enforcement and the creation of the Department and the general ordinance. Module two will review the training resources for the administrative hearings and the appeals process. Module three will be resources under Federal and State law. The first module is nearly complete and all will benefit the Commissioners, the investigators and the Department.

8. ANOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.