

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

201 N. Los Angeles St, Suite 6  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 978-1845  
www.civilandhumanrights.lacity.org

**CAPRI MADDOX**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GENERAL MANAGER

**CLAUDIA LUNA**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**KIM KASRELIOVICH**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA**



**KAREN BASS**  
MAYOR

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

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**MARIA ROMAN-TAYLORSON**  
**BROOKE WIRTSCHAFTER**

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
John Lewis Conference Center  
September 27, 2023

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Angelica Solis-Montero called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. along with Vice President Courtney Morgan-Greene and Commissioners Pierre Arreola, Candice Cho, Brittany McKinley, Rosa Russell, and Maria Roman-Taylorson, in attendance.

Commissioners Enrique de la Cruz, Melissa Grant, Michele Reed, and Brooke Wirtschafter were absent.

Those also in attendance included Capri Maddox, General Manager; Claudia Luna, Assistant General Manager; Barak Vaughn, Deputy City Attorney; Heather Aubry, Assistant City Attorney; Francisco Ortega, Senior Project Coordinator; Carla Ibarra, LGBTQIA+ Liaison; and Liliana Villa, Human Relations Advocate.

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, therefore, public comment was closed.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Commission discussed the minutes of the May 24, 2023 Regular Meeting, the June 28, 2023 Regular Meeting and the July 26, 2023 Special Meeting.

Commissioner Russell made a motion to approve each meeting minutes. Commissioner Cho seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Russell  
Seconded: Cho  
Ayes: McKinley, Roman-Taylorson, Solis-Montero  
Abstain: Arreola, Morgan-Greene  
Absent: de la Cruz, Grant, Reed, Wirtschafter

Vote: 7 – 0

The motion passed.

#### **4. DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Capri Maddox, 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 September 2023. GM Maddox provided updates on upcoming department events: LA For All Lighting Ceremony, Tom LaBonge Day of Service and LA Civil Rights Law Day. *This presentation can be viewed at [civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov](http://civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov).*

#### **5. PRESENTATION**

- a. In honor of Latino Heritage Month, Raquel Roman, Executive Director of Proyecto Pastoral, presented on the Guadalupe Homeless Project. The opening of the Men's shelter was the community's response to the influx of immigrants due to the Civil Unrest in El Salvador. Today, Proyecto Pastoral also has a women's shelter which targets elderly women aged 55 and older. Ms. Roman attributed the success of high permanent housing rates to community-based care, a small staff to participant ratio, and eliminating barriers to housing people. Ms. Roman extended an invitation to all Commissioners to visit the shelter. *This presentation can be viewed at [civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov](http://civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov).*
- b. Raphael Sonenshien, Executive Director of The Haynes Foundation provided an oral presentation "Coalition in a Diverse City". Dr. Sonenshein explained the difference in East Coast politics and politics in Los Angeles. Contrary to the East Coast, Los Angeles relies on coalition and relationship building rather than following the lead of a political party organization. Coalition is a mixture of taking care of oneself, but being open to alliance. Dr. Sonenshein explained the Latino Community were amongst the first groups to form a successful coalition in 1949 with the election of City Council Member Edward Roybal.

#### **6. TAC REPORT**

Karina Samala, Chair of the Transgender Advisory Council gave an update on the recent activities of the TAC. The TAC held a successful Transgender and Non-Binary Career Fair at LA Trade Tech on September 13<sup>th</sup>. She spoke about Access to Prevention Advocacy Intervention & Treatment's (APAIT) new housing program that offers housing and other resources to the transgender community. This program is in response to the TAC's Midnight Stroll program. TAC Member, Eden Luna, has been invited to the Commission Retreat to provide a presentation on pronouns and cultural competency.

**7. LGBTQIA+ Liaison Update**

- a. Due to time constraints, Carla Ibarra, LA Civil Rights' LGBTQIA+ Liaison, yielded her time and will provide an update at the next regular Commission Meeting.

**8. Ad Hoc Committee Updates**

- a. Commissioner Morgan-Greene saved the update for the following meeting but announced that there's availability for Commissioners to join the Ad Hoc Committee.

**9. Announcements**

- a. Commissioner Russell announced she is on the Black History Month Committee which will celebrate in February. She will provide updates at the following meeting.
- b. Commissioner Roman-Taylorson announced a Job Fair hosted by TransLatin@ Coalition on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. She invited Commissioners to participate.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.