

**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

ANGELICA SOLIS-MONTERO
PRESIDENT

COURTNEY MORGAN-GREENE
VICE PRESIDENT

PIERRE ARREOLA
CANDICE CHO
ENRIQUE DE LA CRUZ
MELISSA GRANT
BRITTANY MCKINLEY
MICHELE REED
ROSA RUSSELL
MARIA ROMAN-TAYLORSON
BROOKE WIRTSCHAFTER

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes
John Lewis Conference Center
October 25, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Vice President Courtney Morgan-Greene called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. along with Commissioners Pierre Arreola, Candice Cho, Enrique de la Cruz, Brittany McKinley, Michele Reed, Rosa Russell, and Brooke Wirtschafter, in attendance.

Commissioners Melissa Grant, Angelica Solis-Montero, and Maria Roman-Taylorson were absent.

Those also in attendance included Claudia Luna, Assistant General Manager; Barak Vaughn, Deputy City Attorney; Nicole Gougis, Assistant City Attorney; Scott Lee, Legislative and Community Affairs Director; Francisco Ortega, Senior Project Coordinator; Carla Ibarra, LGBTQIA+ Liaison; Allison Wilhite, Participatory Budget Coordinator; Tristen Marler, Peace and Healing Project Manager; 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 September 27 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

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

Vote: 8 – 0

The motion passed.

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 October 2023. AGM Luna provided updates on the department's Participatory Budgeting Program, which is currently open to receive program proposals from the following 6 REPAIR Zones: Arleta-Pacoima; Harbor Gateway – Wilmington – Harbor City; Westlake; West Adams – Baldwin Village – Leimert Park; Skid Row; and South Los Angeles. AGM Luna also explained that some Peace & Healing Centers are closing as the program has run its full course; however, a select few will remain open. The department will host an upward mobility event, Law Day, on Saturday, October 27, 2023. *This presentation can be viewed at civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov.*

5. PRESENTATION

- a. Margarita Alvarez Gomez, Executive Director of Central City Neighborhood Partners (CCNP), provided a presentation explaining the impact the Peace & Healing Center has had in the community of Westlake. CCNP's mission is to advance economic opportunities for low-income families. Through the Peace & Healing program, CCNP has been able to introduce Yoga, Family Healing Through Art, Bailando con CCNP, which has contributed to 1,300 cumulative healing hours. *This presentation can be viewed at civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov.*
- b. Human Relations Commissioner Courtney Morgan-Greene and LA Civil Rights Senior Project Coordinator Francisco Ortega, provided an oral presentation on the Human Relations Commission's (HRC) role in helping adopt a citywide ordinance to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. The Commission's research included interviews, academic research, and information gathered at community forums suggesting that a day dedicated to celebrating and honoring indigenous people would positively impact the City. The HRC also found that the continued celebration of Columbus Day would have a negative impact, therefore recommending that the City replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. This report was given to the City Council and called for 2 separate votes: 1. Call for the creation of Indigenous Peoples' Day, (15-0) and 2. Replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day (14-1). The State of California followed by recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day, and then United States President Joe Biden made an official proclamation in 2021. Although Indigenous Peoples' Day has been a success, HRC recognizes that there's still work that must be done.

- c. In honor of Filipino American Heritage Month, Enrique de la Cruz, Human Relations Commissioner, provided an oral presentation providing a history of how the Filipino community grew in the United States. Commissioner de la Cruz also showed political cartoons that depicted Filipinos as the enemy of the Americans. Due to Spain losing the Spanish-American War, the US acquired the Philippines along with Puerto Rico and Guam. Filipinos are the 3rd largest Asian group in the United States which is due to three specific waves in the 20th century: a need for manual labor and Filipinos fulfilling this need as they were US Nationals; The War Brides Act, which allowed Filipinos who served in the US Armed Forces to bring their spouses to the United States; and the creation of Medi-Care which created the need for more medical personnel which the US recruited from the English-Speaking territory of the Philippines. *This presentation can be viewed at civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov.*

6. LGBTQIA+ Liaison Update

- a. Carla Ibarra, LA Civil Rights' LGBTQIA Liaison, provided updates for the Los Angeles City Transgender Advisory Council. On November 14, the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) will be celebrated through an art gallery exhibition in the City Hall Bridge in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Council District 11. Council District 11 will be honoring TDOR through a City Council Presentation, which will not only be honoring community members who were lost but also honoring the outgoing TAC Chair, Mother Karina Samala. Additionally, on November 17, TAC will be hosting a Community gathering vigil in which community partners will celebrate the lives of those lost.

7. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- a. Commissioner Morgan-Greene provided an update on the Young Adult Dinner Dialogues. The original task of completing twenty-four dialogues throughout the City has been completed, but the project was expanded to have six more dialogues in the months of November and December. Commissioner Morgan-Greene informed that the University of Cincinnati, under Dr. Brian Calfano, will be an academic partner in the report.
- b. Commissioner Morgan-Greene updated the Commission that the bylaws have been reviewed by both the Ad Hoc Committee and the City Attorney. They will be sent to the Commissioners before the Commission Retreat for review, and a vote will be required then.

8. Announcements

- a. Commissioner Arreola shared an upcoming Community Policing Conference hosted by LA County's Human Relations Commission, the Civilian Oversight Commission, the Justice, Care & Opportunities Department, the County Youth Department, amongst other partners. The Conference will be hosted on October 27th at Cal State Los Angeles. The Department's Civil Rights Enforcement unit has also connected with the County's LA vs. Hate, and their services will be included in 211.
- b. Tristen Marler, LA Civil Rights Peace and Healing Project Manager, announced that 4 Peace & Healing Centers are closing: Proyecto Pastoral, El Nido Family Centers in Panorama City and Pacoima, and Bryant Temple Ame CDC. Ms. Marler thanked the

Commission for the partnership with Peace & Healing Centers, specifically with the Young Adult Dinner Dialogues.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.