

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY  
DEPARTMENT**

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**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS  
OF WOMEN**

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President

**DORA QUACH**  
Vice President

**LUCIG H. DANIELIAN**  
**SIMONA GRACE**  
**ERMA BERNARD-GIBSON**  
**JERILYN LOPEZ MENDOZA**  
**CRISTINA ROSE**

**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Tracy Gray called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Present for the meeting were Vice President Quach, Commissioners Simona Grace, Erma Bernard-Gipson, Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza, and Cristina Rose

Commission staff in attendance were LA Civil Rights General Manager Capri Maddox, Assistant General Manager of Operations Claudia Luna; Assistant General Manager of Civil Rights Enforcement Kim Kasreliovich, Deputy City Attorney Barak Vaughn, Senior Project Coordinator Francisco Ortega; Human Relations Advocate Liliana Villa; and LGBTQAI+ Liaison, Carla Ibarra.

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 MINUTES:**

The review and approval of meeting Minutes for the September 15, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Gray made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for Friday, September 15, 2023. Commissioner Danielian seconded the motion and added a revision to section 5, item f to include the language "strategies and actions" to the record. The vote with the amendment to the minutes proceeded as follows:

Moved: Gray  
Seconded: Quach  
Ayes: Grace, Bernard-Gipson  
Abstention: Lopez Mendoza, Rose  
Absent: Danielian

Vote: 6 – 0

The motion passed.

**4. DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Capri Maddox, General Manager and Executive Director, shared the department update. She presented the LA Civil Rights Overview Deck for November 2023. This presentation can be viewed at [civilandhumanrights.lacity.org](http://civilandhumanrights.lacity.org).

**5. LGBTQIA+ UPDATE**

Carla Ibarra delivered an oral update that included the work of the Transgender Advisory Council and highlighted the TAC's participation in the City Council's Transgender Day of Remembrance that honored TAC Chair Mother Karina Samala with the first annual Trans Impact and Legacy Award. Miss Ibarra mentioned that moving forward in 2024, the award will be permanently named the "Karina Sama Trans Impact and Legacy Award" to honor the more than 30 years Mother Karina has been an active advocate and warrior for the Trans and Nonbinary Community. Miss Ibarra also invited the full board to take part in the TAC's Trans Day of Remembrance event to take place at City Hall on Friday, November 17, 2023 at the South Lawn in City Hall. The event will bring together community members, advocacy organizations and the team at LA Civil Rights Department.

**6. PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. **Romeo Hebron**, Executive Director of the Filipino Migrant Center, delivered a comprehensive presentation, "Uplifting the Issues, Challenges and Victories/Highlights of the Filipino Community," that highlighted some of the Migrant Center's Advocacy work around bringing attention to the plight of domestic workers and home caregivers. His presentation can be found at [lacivilandhumanrights.gov](http://lacivilandhumanrights.gov)
- b. **Makyla Cervantes, Phoebe Quach, and Angela Yang**, Club Officers for the Women in Business Club at Granada Hills Charter High School, presented the clubs' goals and objectives and highlighted how the school club is focused on "Empowering Girls Through Financial Literacy. Their oral presentation included questions and comments from CSW board members who praised the Club's reach and impact on campus.

**7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Board discussion and action regarding the approval of the amended CSW Bylaws presented by the City Attorney's Office. Commissioner Lopez Mendoza introduced a motion to accept the changes recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee, with a small edit/amendment in Section 6 from "Chair" to "President." The motion to adopt the amended bylaws with the amendment was unanimously approved:

Moved: Lopez Mendoza  
Second: Rose  
Ayes: Grace, Bernard-Gipson, Gray, Quach  
Absent: Danielian

Vote: 6 – 0

The motion passed.

- b. Commissioner Bernard-Gipson introduced a motion to continue CSW Board support for the “Working Dreams Organization” and their annual Holiday Toy Giveaway. Various members of the board had a robust discussion regarding staff capacity and logistics. The vote went as follows:

Moved: Bernard-Gipson  
Second: Quach  
Ayes: Gray, Grace, Rose, Lopez Mendoza  
Absent: Danielian

Vote: 6 – 0

The motion passed

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Commission President Gray acknowledged the recent passing of Gwen Staples and wanted to make the commission aware of her deep contributions and impact on the community. Miss Staples was instrumental in drafting the CROWN ACT (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act).

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, Commission President Gray adjourned the meeting in memory of Gwen Staples at 12:11 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](https://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)