

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS
AND EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Commission Chair Abigail Zelenski called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. along with Commissioners Mary Lee, Cindy Pánuco, and Diane Robertson in attendance.

Commissioners Kandee Lewis and Hoang Nguyen were absent from this meeting.

Also in attendance, were Kim Kasreliovich, Assistant General Manager and Heather Aubrey, Assistant City Attorney. A quorum was established and the meeting proceeded.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no speakers to address the Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 14, 2023 Regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Pánuco made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Pánuco
Seconded: Lee
Ayes: Robertson, Zelenski
Abstain:
Absent: Lewis, Nguyen

Vote: 4 - 0

The motion passed.

4. PRESENTATION:

- a. Deputy Mayor Brenda Shockley gave a presentation discussing grassroots organizations and volunteer work. She emphasized the important role of these elements in local government, helping to fully represent constituents.
- b. Empowerment Congress members gave a presentation on their work and the history of their organization. The organization was founded in 1992 and consists entirely of volunteers. The Empowerment Congress works with grassroots organizations to improve the lives of constituents by effecting policy change in local government.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a. Kim Kasrelievich, Assistant General Manager, gave the Department updates. The Department was able to hire some new staff prior to an upcoming hiring. She noted that the L.A. Repair grant opportunity has closed, with voting available March 15th through April 7th. The Peace and Healing Centers have concluded, with a report to follow in the coming weeks. The AGM shared some recent events, along with photos. She noted some upcoming events, such as the Voices of LA Awards, LA Medical Day, and "This Light of Ours: Activist Photographers of the Civil Rights Movement." AGM Kasrelievich also highlighted work by Joumana Silyan-Saba and the LAPD to provide hate crime reporting for the first time online.
- b. AGM Kasrelievich also provided the Civil Rights Enforcement Update. Two hearing examiners were hired, along with a legal intern. CRE averages about 30 to 40 complaints per month. A significant amount are referred out due to our jurisdiction limitations. If CRE continues at this rate, a 50% increase is anticipated. Communications staff will be assisting with more outreach. The AGM also noted the first filed and served Notice of Violation, regarding a business's discriminatory backpack policy. Rashad Clay was the lead investigator. This N.O.V. could be heard by the Commission in the future if it goes to trial.

6. DISCUSSION:

Immigrant community outreach one page flyer update. AGM Kasrelievich presented a standard one page flyer for discussion. The flyer will be updated to include additional information on citizenship status and the process of filing a CRE complaint. The flyer will be created in several different languages.

7. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Commissioner Zelenski provided the final Ad Hoc Committee update. The committee completed its task of creating two training videos on the discrimination enforcement process. These are a continuing resource to supplement the administrative code. A third video, that is optional to view, will be released soon.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.