CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY DEPARTMENT

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BROOKE WIRTSCHAFTER

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes March 26, 2025 12:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Vice President Pierre Arreola called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. Present at roll call were Commissioners Enrique de la Cruz, Candice Cho, Michele Reed, Rosa Russell, and Maria Roman-Taylorson.

Commissioners Melissa Grant, Brittany McKinkey, Courtney Morgan-Greene, Angelica Solis, and Brooke Wirtschafter were absent.

Also in attendance were Claudia Luna, Assistant General Manager, LA Civil Rights Department LACR; Barak Vaughn, Deputy City Attorney; Carla Ibarra, LGBTQIA+ Community Liaison; Liliana Villa, Human Relations Advocate; and Chloe Coventry, Management Assistant.

A quorum was established and the meeting proceeded.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment period was opened. Deputy City Attorney, Barak Vaughn, made an announcement regarding the introduction of California Senate Bill 239, which would potentially allow Commissions to meet virtually. Deputy City Attorney Vaughn will keep the Commission updated.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 26, 2025 Regular meeting. Commissioner Russell motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner De la Cruz seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Russell Seconded: De la Cruz

Ayes: Arreola, Cho, Reed, Roman-Taylorson

Abstain:

Absent: Grant, McKinley, Morgan-Greene, Solis, Wirtschafter

Vote: 6 - 0

The motion passed.

4. DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Assistant General Manager Claudia Luna spoke to the Commission about Civil Rights Department events during Women's History Month. The Commission on the Status of Women held their annual award ceremony, the Women of Impact Awards. The Department also held its 2nd annual Women in Government webinar, as well as participated in community engagement events including CicLAvia, and a panel at the Rotary Club. AGM Luna promoted the upcoming TGI2+ Job Fair, which will be held on March 27th. AGM Luna announced that the Citywide TTY system was being discontinued after April 15, 2025.

5. PRESENTATION

In honor of Women's History Month, the Commission on the Status of Women's (CSW) Vice President, Simona Grace, presented on the Commission's recent activities. Vice President Grace shared the CSW's strategic priorities: Visibility and Influencing the Public Narrative, Political Advocacy and Leadership, Upward Mobility, Public Safety, and Health and Well-being. Under these strategic priorities the Commission's current activities include their flagship event, the Women of Impact Awards, ensuring CA AB220 is upheld at the local level, and developing a menopause report to attempt to influence City policy, amongst others.

6. DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

- The Commissioners discussed their strategic priorities and potential action items.
 - Under the racial equity and healing strategic priority, the Commission discussed supporting local businesses who are at risk of closure. Commissioner Cho mentioned the California State "Welcome In" initiative, which highlights businesses that are safe and support diversity and inclusion. The Commission may help businesses enroll in the training while also training them on the City's Civil Rights Ordinance.
 - In order to uplift the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy priority, the Commission discussed resuming regular Transgender Advisory Council (TAC) updates during their meetings, as well as partnering and collaborating on TAC's future events.
 - Vice President Arreola presented his Talking Points document and received feedback from the rest of the board. Moving forward, the Commission will refer to the strategic priorities as "human-centric priorities".
- b. Due to time constraints, and President McKinley's absence, the discussion on the LA Civil Rights Department's *Just Say Hello Campaign* was postponed until the next regular meeting.

7. AD HOC UPDATES

a. Vice President Arreola announced the sunsetting of the Young Adult Dinner Dialogues ad hoc committee as the committee has completed its scope of work with the release of the Young Adult Dinner Dialogues Report.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Deputy City Attorney, Barak Vaughn, announced the City's Community Investment for Families Department has Know Your Rights cards in 21 languages. Commissioners can request the digital copies.

- b. Commissioner Roman-Taylorson announced that the TransLatin@ Coalition will have a free screening of *Trillion Cuts: Diamonds of Resilience* on March 28, 2025.
- c. Liliana Villa, Human Relations Advocate LACR, announced that the LAPD Academy graduation is happening on April 4th and that the department is in need of a Commissioner to attend and represent the Commission and Department.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.