

COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
April 18, 2005
320 W. Temple St., Suite 1184
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PRESENT:	Mr. Ray Bartlett Mr. Vito Cannella Grand Master Tong Suk Chun Ms. Susanne Cumming Mr. Adrian Dove	Ms. Kathay Feng Ms. Rebecca Isaacs Ms. Lea Ann King Ms. Eleanor Montañó Mr. Thomas Saenz
EXCUSED:	Ms. Donna Bojarsky Rev. Zedar E. Broadous Mr. Mario Ceballos	Ms. Judy Coffman Mr. Albert DeBlanc
STAFF:	Ms. Grace Löwenberg Ms. Lisa Hart Mr. Eugene Stevenson	Mr. Robin S. Toma Ms. Terri Villa-McDowell

I. OPENING OF INFORMAL MEETING

At 12:40 p.m., in the absence of a quorum, Commission President Saenz called the informal meeting to order. In the absence of Executive Director Toma, who was away briefly at a Board of Supervisors ceremony honoring volunteers and without objection, the agenda was reordered to accommodate Mr. Toma's temporary absence from the meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee – Committee Chair Susanne Cumming provided an update on planning for the event and asked Commissioners to suggest names of potential members for this year's Honorary Host Committee.

IV. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

At 12:52 p.m., a quorum was achieved with the arrival of Commission Chun and the meeting was officially called to order. Commissioner Bartlett led the flag salute, followed by a moment of silence.

President Saenz informed that the meeting would be adjourned in honor of Lalo Guerrero, Corky Gonzalez, and Fred Korematsu, and, at the request of Commissioner Bojarsky, Pope John Paul II.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was MSC (Cumming/Bartlett) that the minutes of the March 21st 2005 meeting be approved.

VI. FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Meeting Schedule – Upon surveying Committee members present, President Saenz informed that a quorum would be available for the May 2nd meeting.
2. Moratorium on Executions - President Saenz requested that staff revisit this matter and to provide next step recommendations for consideration by the Commission in view of feedback received from several Board of Supervisors offices concerning the motion previously adopted by the Commission and its proposed recommendations to the Board.
3. AB125-Controlled Substances: Cocaine Penalties – It was MSC (Dove/King) to support AB125 (Dymally, Los Angeles) that would eliminate a seriously flawed disparity in standards for sentencing of offenders charged with possession and sales of rock cocaine and the sentencing of those charged with the possession and sales in equal amounts of either powder cocaine or heroin.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Toma reported on the following items:

1. King-Drew Medical Center - Mr. Toma reported having been contacted by Department of Human Resources and Department of Health Services staff to advise on diversity training for King-Drew staff as part of its Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) re-accreditation process. The training is planned to occur by August.
2. Racial/Ethnic Conflict on School Campuses – Mr. Toma reported on a number of incidents of racial-ethnic conflict and physical violence occurring in Los Angeles County area school campuses, including Jefferson High School, Narbonne High School, Grant High School

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and Santa Monica High, among several others. Commission staff has been on-site at most of these schools, including Jefferson where they have conferred with the principal, district superintendent, and Supervisor Burke's staff. Commission staff has engaged in conducting on-site assessments at each school with the goal of developing a range of options to make available for short and long-term resolutions. The challenge will be to get local school administration support for implementing any plans developed.

Responding to Commissioner Dove's concern for the need for a committee to specifically focus upon the issues giving rise to this conflict, President Saenz and Mr. Toma will work with Commissioner Dove in defining the specific charge for the proposed committee for consideration by the full Commission.

3. Radio Talk Show Appearances – Mr. Toma informed that Mary Louise Longoria, Senior Intergroup Relations Specialist, appeared on newspaper columnist and radio personality Earl Ofari Hutchinson's show to discuss ongoing intergroup conflict issues in the Santa Clarita Valley area. Mr. Toma was interviewed on KPCC radio show "Talk of the City" with Kitty Felde regarding African American-Latino gang conflict generally and a recent incident in the West Adams area involving African American homes being graffitied by a Latino gang.
4. County Volunteer Recognition Ceremony – Mr. Toma attended the Board of Supervisor's Volunteer Recognition Ceremony today at which Commission volunteers Gerald Alcantar, Fox Network's Director of Diversity, current Corporate Advisory Committee Vice-President and former Commission President; and Ira Zimmerman, co-president of the Commission's Media Image Coalition and a representative of the National Stuttering Association (NSA) were honored.

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Committee: Reported on above under Section III of the Agenda.
2. Legislation/Public Policy Committee – Commissioner Feng provided Commissioners with an overview of the committee's mission and the criteria it plans to utilize in making a determination of what action, if any, the committee will initiate in response to human relations-related legislative issues or initiatives. Commissioner Feng also provided Commissioners with an update on the status of several pieces of legislation of interest to Commissioners.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Cannella - Inquired regarding procedural rules defining when and under what circumstances the Commission President or a presiding officer can cast a vote to break a tie. President Saenz will review and so inform the Commissioner.

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X. ADJOURNMENT

It was MSC (Dove/Bartlett) to adjourn the meeting at approximately 2 p.m. in memory of Pope John Paul II (by Commissioner Bojarsky); Johnnie Cochran, civil advocate/attorney; Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, civil rights activist (by President Saenz), and Lalo Guerrero, father of Chicano music (by President Saenz); and Fred Korematsu, Constitutional law legend (by Director Toma)

RT:ES:GL:TS