



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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MINUTES

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Commission Meeting of December 6, 2010

Community and Senior Services (CSS)

3175 W. Sixth Street, Room 304 – Teamwork Room/Ray Bartlett Conference Room
Los Angeles, California 90020

PRESENT: Michael Gi-Hao Cheung William Lambert
Susanne Cumming Eleanor Montaño
Adrian Dove (via phone) Sergio Paz
Kathay Feng Sandra E. Thomas (via phone)
Lea Ann King

ABSENT: Rev. Zedar E. Broadous
Donna Bojarsky Mario Ceballos
Vito Cannella Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun

STAFF: Grace Löwenberg Robin S. Toma
Elena Halpert-Schilt Emily M. Pacheco
Summer Brown
Marshall Wong

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The commission meeting was called to order by Vice President/Secretary Feng at 12:40 p.m. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Paz.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Cumming, seconded by Commissioner Paz, to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2010 meeting. The motion carried with Commissioner Dove abstaining.
3. **Public Comment:** Commissioner Montaño stated that she had not yet received her reimbursement for the cost of purchasing the commissioner name pins. Commission staff will look into the status of her reimbursement.
4. **President's Report:** President Thomas apologized for being unable to attend the meeting in person, and presented the following report:
 - 4.1 **Youth Offender Reentry Planning Grant Summit:** President Thomas reported that the previously proposed Black/Brown Summit and the issues surrounding youth reentry would be incorporated into the sixth and final Youth Offender Reentry Planning Grant Summit to be held on February 16, 2011. Commissioners were asked to reserve that day to attend and

were informed that a 'save-the-date' notice would be sent out by the end of the week. A formal invitation to all invited will follow at a later date.

- 4.2 Strategic Plan Progress:** President Thomas emphasized the need to continue to stay in line with the strategic plan and the goals that the Commission agreed upon as a group. She also provided congratulatory remarks for staff members Gustavo Guerra Vasquez, Juan Carlos Martinez, Sikivu Hutchinson, and Fidel Rodriguez for their work on the Washington Prep High School project. Staff member Guerra Vasquez recently took a group of diverse students on a weekend retreat during which they were provide human relations tools and education.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** HRC Executive Director Toma informed the Commission that staff member Emily Pacheco would be leaving the Commission to join the staff of the Workforce Investment Board and that this would be her last Commission meeting. He thanked her for her many contributions to the Commission and its work. Those in attendance applauded in appreciation. He also introduced to Commissioners the person taking Ms. Pacheco's place, Summer Brown.
- 5.1 Update on Tracking Crimes Against the Homeless:** Executive Director Toma reported on the Commission's efforts in having violence against people experiencing homelessness in the County of Los Angeles tracked by law enforcement agencies. He reported that the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee's Violence Against the Homeless Task Force, which includes the Long Beach Police Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Pasadena Police Department, and the Santa Monica Police Department, is now preparing to provide an update to Board deputies regarding the progress made in establishing a tracking process for the County of Los Angeles. Toma reported that when the group reaches its goal, it may be the first county in the nation that tracks violence against the homeless.
- 5.2 Report on U.S. Universal Periodic Review Hearing of U.N. Human Rights Council:** Toma reported that he was honored to be invited and hosted by the U.S. Department of State to be a part of the U.S. government's official delegation to the United Nations' Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, in November. The delegation consisted of representatives in charge of civil and human rights from various federal agencies. He was one of three advisors who were not employees of the federal government, brought to provide advice on the role of civil society and state/local governments in ensuring human rights are being promoted and implemented in the communities and neighborhoods of our nation.
- 5.3 Strategic Plan Implementation:** Toma reported on the commission staff's progress on the strategic plan. He informed commissioners that the Commission will receive some funding from the County CEO that came from a federal government Second Chance Grant on re-entry. He communicated that although funding is limited, Commission staff are working hard to continue to make real changes in the community and do what is possible.

Toma also reported that the daughter of recently deceased Honorary and former Commissioner Kate Stern sent a thank you card to the Commission for adjourning in her memory and for staff's efforts to have the Board of Supervisors adjourn in her memory as well. The card was passed around to everyone in attendance.

6. For Discussion/Action

6.1 Annual Hate Crime Report: Staff member Marshall Wong presented on the 2009 Hate Crime Report. Commissioners were encouraged to ensure their attendance at the 2009 Hate Crime Report Press Conference to be held at the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 10 a.m.

6.2 Request for JAF Trust Fund for The Bricks: Commissioner King reported to the Commission that there was an urgent need to cover the cost of \$350 per The Bricks' song for mixing and mastering of two songs. After distribution of a proposed motion and discussion regarding this issue, the following action was taken:

It was moved by Commissioner King, seconded by President Thomas, that the Commission approve expending \$700 from the John Anson Ford (JAF) Trust Fund for the mixing and mastering of The Bricks' two songs, which shall be appropriated for this purpose only if private funds are not raised and if departmental budget funds cannot be obtained for this purpose; and the Commission approves expending a maximum of \$2,100 from the JAF Trust Fund for the subsequent mixing and mastering of the remaining six songs of The Bricks, only to be pursued if private funding or departmental budget funds are not obtained. Moreover, if the commission is able to raise funds from private sponsors, the JAF Trust Fund shall be reimbursed any funds expended. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 JAF Human Relations Awards Committee: Commissioner King distributed a final budget from the John Anson Ford Awards event and reported that this would be the final committee report until next year's event. Commissioner Cumming commended the Commission and its staff for the work done on this event and gave positive recognition to the considerable downscaling of the event due to the current state of the economy.

7.2 Youth Committee: Commissioner King commended commission staff members Guerra Vasquez and Martinez on their work to get the minutes from the Youth Committee Meeting to the Commission. The Youth Committee meeting took place earlier in the morning and the minutes were distributed to those in attendance. It was mentioned that the committee will be exploring the possibility of using JAF Trust funds to provide incentives to the Homeless Youth Leadership Council to encourage youth to speak in the community about homeless youth issues.

Commissioner King distributed a draft of criteria for evaluation of requests for JAF Funds. The Youth Committee used the draft criteria to evaluate The Bricks request.

She announced that Commissioner Cumming will be consulting other Commission Criteria to prepare consistent guidelines for making decisions for use of JAF funds subject to Commission approval.

7.3 Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee: Commissioner Paz, co-chair, stated that no report was needed and a complete calendar of committee meetings for 2011 will be available at a later date.

7.4 Crisis Response Committee: Commissioner Feng reported that the committee's minutes from the November 22, 2010 meeting were included in the meeting agenda packet. A process was discussed to handle crisis response requests that allows an assessment of the appropriateness of involvement and level of response, if necessary. The next committee meeting may be held on December 20, 2010, depending on people's holiday schedules.

8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements: Commissioner King reminded commissioners that The Bricks performance on KPCC (89.3 FM) would be taped later in the week in Pasadena. She requested that commissioners make their best effort to attend.

9. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Montaña and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 pm in memory of Peter Corpus from Search to Involve Pilipino Americans who passed away on November 22, 2010, and in memory of Supervisor Mike Antonovich's sister, Madeline Marie Antonovich, who passed on November 30, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathay Feng, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary