



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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SUMMARY OF MEETING
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Commission Meeting of August 2, 2010
Community and Senior Services (CSS) Building
3rd Floor Team/Ray Bartlett Conference Room
3175 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020

PRESENT: Susanne Cumming Eleanor Montaño*
 Kathay Feng* Sergio Paz
 Lea Ann King Sandra E. Thomas*

(*) Denotes officer and member of the Executive Committee

ABSENT: Rev. Zedar Broadous Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
 Donna Bojarsky Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun
 Vito Cannella Adrian Dove
 Mario Ceballos William Lambert

STAFF: Elena Halpert-Schilt, HRC Assist. Exec. Director
 Grace Löwenberg Emily Pacheco

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** The meeting was called to order as a meeting of the Executive Committee at 12:40 p.m. with six commissioners present. The flag salute and moment of silence were led by Commissioner Paz.
2. **Approval of Minutes of previous meetings:** Tabled for lack of quorum.
3. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
4. **President's Report:**
 - 4.1. **Strategic Plan Progress:** President Sandra Thomas informed the Commission that she would like to take a moment during each meeting to review the Commission's mission so as to help keep discussions focused on carrying out the commission's purpose and strategic priorities. She invited commissioners to do the same at future meetings. She also reported that Commission staff have attended two strategic planning sessions and anticipate attending two others during the month of August. The work being done at these planning sessions will be presented to the Commission once a programmatic work plan for FY 2010-2011 has been developed by staff.
 - 4.2. **Commission Election Results:** President Thomas recapped last month's election of district officers and on behalf of all those elected thanked commissioners for their vote.

- 4.3. Committee Retreats with CSS Director Cynthia Banks:** Preparations for the Commissioners' Ground Rules retreat are underway. A tentative date has been scheduled for September 13, 2010. Location of the retreat will be provided to Commissioners as soon as arrangements have been made and confirmed.
- 4.4. Commission Committee Requests and Appointments:** President Thomas reviewed the approved restructuring of Commission Committees and thanked Commissioners for selecting a committee to be a member of. The most current list of volunteers for each committee was distributed to commissioners. President Thomas also requested that Commissioners interested in acting as chair of a committee inform her of their interest before the end of the meeting. Commissioner Feng requested to be moved to the Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Committee.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Assistant Executive Director Elena Halpert-Schilt reported on behalf of Executive Director Robin Toma who was absent due to his attendance at a Human Rights Conference in Bellagio, Italy.

 - 5.1. Strategic Plan Implementation:** Halpert-Schilt reported on the status of the HRC Strategic Plan as of 8/2/2010. She reported that in Goal 1 Focus on Youth: Staff will be conducting trainings during staff development at Washington Prep to teach about human relations principles. Also under Goal 1, the Commission's media strategy for youth is moving forward with the official release of The Bricks CD on August 24, 2010 at the Gene Autry Heritage Museum. Under Goal 3, The Homeless Initiative is moving forward with efforts underway to finalize a status update report to the Board of Supervisors. Under Goal 4, The Pasadena-Altadena Vision 20/20 Initiative is currently being transitioned to be completely directed by the Pasadena-Altadena Community and the Flintridge Foundation. The Harbor Gateway G.R.A.C.E. program has received word that Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe has secured Justice Assistance Grant funding for its efforts in the Harbor Gateway. Funding was guaranteed to the G.R.A.C.E. project for the next two years, for the amount of \$224,000 dollars per fiscal year. Commission staff are extremely excited and grateful. Lastly, Commission staff have been collaborating with the Parks After Dark Program to ensure that human relations conflict resolution and gang reduction philosophies are included in the program. A brochure outlining the program's calendar of events was distributed to all commissioners.
 - 5.2. Youth Offender Reentry Planning Grant Summit:** The Second Supervisorial District Youth Offender Reentry Planning Grant Summit was held on Friday July 23, 2010. Commissioners Cumming and Montañó attended and reported that she was very happy to see plenty of youth representation. The fourth Supervisorial District summit will be held at Long Beach City College on August 12, 2010. The fifth Supervisorial District summit will be held at Pasadena City College on August 25, 2010.
- 6. For Discussion/Action:**

 - 6.1 IAOHRA Conference August 29 - September 1, 2010 Commission Representatives and Approval of JAF funds for attendance:** President Thomas announced that the International Association of Human Rights Agencies Annual Conference will be held from August 29, 2010 through September 1, 2010 in Mobile, Alabama. Assistant Executive Director Halpert-Schilt informed the Commission that the County of Los Angeles has a moratorium on all travel and conference attendance unless the travel/conference attendance requested is necessary to generate revenue or maintain a license so expenses for this trip would need to come from another source of funding. President Thomas informed Commissioners that, should anyone attend, the cost per person would need to be covered by the only other available funding source, the JAF Trust Fund.

Due to lack of quorum, and the need to gain approval for the use of JAF funds before the end of August, commissioners in attendance agreed to call a telephone conference as soon as possible to discuss this issue further. Commissioner Feng made a recommendation that the commission approve funding for one staff person and one commissioner to attend the IAOHRA Conference for up to \$1,800 per person and that the priority would be to send the Executive Director and President of the Commission and if not the Commission President then the Assistant Executive Director.

The Executive Director will continue to look for alternate sources of funding and look into other ways to offset the cost, such as contribution of miles for airfare.

7. Committee Reports:

7.1 Ad Hoc Ground Rules Committee: tabled

7.2 JAF Human Relations Awards Committee: Commissioner King reported that the time of the JAF Human Relations Awards reception has been changed to start in the morning at 11:00 a.m. on October 12, 2010. The presentation of awardees to the Board of Supervisors will follow at 1:00 p.m. She also distributed a copy of the JAF donation form that will be going out with the donation letters.

8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements:

Commissioner King announced that the Mosque in Carson/Torrance has invited everyone to visit for Ramadan on August 13, 2010. Commissioners were asked to keep Commissioner Vito Cannella's wife and daughter in their thoughts as they are both very ill. It was announced that Commissioner King celebrated her birthday last week and that President Thomas's youngest granddaughter recently qualified for the Junior Olympics in gymnastics.

9. Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Feng, seconded by Commissioner Montañó, to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee in memory of Daniel Schorr, a long time senior news analyst for NPR and CBS and in the memory of Senator Diane Watson's mother who passed away on July 25, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathay Feng, Esq.
Vice-President/Secretary