



**SPECIAL MEETING  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
3:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS**

Charlotte Lacey, Chair, District 7  
Brandon Lamar, Vice-Chair, Mayor  
Brenda Morales, District 1  
Theresa Robinett, District 2  
Rene Gonzalez, District 3  
Kevork Keushkerian, District 4  
Sandy Greenstein, District 6  
Hamed Shirmohammadi, At Large  
Vacant, District 5

**STAFF**

LaWayne Williams, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor  
Tamer Sabha, Recording Secretary

Human Relations Commission meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Agendas and related documents are available for public review on the City website at:  
<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/human-relations-commission/>

*To request meeting materials in alternative formats or other disability-related modifications or accommodations necessary to facilitate meeting participation, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department as soon as possible at (626) 744-7295 or [tsabha@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tsabha@cityofpasadena.net). Providing at least 72-hour advance notice will help ensure availability.*

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON MARCH 17, 2020, THE FOLLOWING MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE **SOLELY BY TELECONFERENCE/VIDEOCONFERENCE**.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE ELECTRONICALLY IN THE OPEN SESSION PORTION OF THE MEETING.

ACCESS TO THE MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

**Video Conference:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86522856521>

**OR**

**Phone:** 1 (669) 900-6833 - Webinar ID: 865 2285 6521

## **PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

If you wish to provide comment, you may do so as follows:

**1. ADVANCE CORRESPONDENCE, TO BECOME PART OF THE RECORD:**

Submit public comment of any length to [tsabha@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tsabha@cityofpasadena.net) prior to the meeting day. Please be aware that, while these comments will be provided to the members of the body and will become part of the meeting record, they will not be read aloud.

**2. COMMENTS TO BE READ ALOUD AT THE MEETING:**

Submit public comment of up to 200 words regarding items on the agenda to: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/public-comment/>. The body reserves the right to summarize comments if necessary for the orderly and timely flow of the meeting. All comments in their entirety will become part of the meeting record.

Public comments will be limited to matters on this agenda.

If you need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act because you are unable to participate electronically as set forth above, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department as soon as possible at (626) 744-7295 or [tsabha@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tsabha@cityofpasadena.net).



**SPECIAL MEETING  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
3:00 P.M.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - FEBRUARY 2, 2021\*
- 3. NEW BUSINESS**
  - NONE
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
  - ACTION ITEMS**
    - DISCUSS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MULTIMEDIA HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST
    - DISCUSS RECOGNITION OF 2020 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS
    - DISCUSS HOLDING A SPECIAL MEETING IN 2021 ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT HUMAN RELATIONS IN THE CITY OF PASADENA
    - COMMISSION WORK PLAN UPDATES AND DISCUSSION\*
- 5. COMMENTS AND UPDATES**
  - COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS
  - STAFF COMMENTS
- 6. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

\*Attachment

Note to Public: Public comment is limited to items on this special meeting agenda and will be heard at the time the item is considered.

POSTING STATEMENT: I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Agenda, in its entirety was posted on the City Council Chamber Bulletin Board S249, and the bulletin board in the rotunda area at City Hall, 100 North Garfield Avenue on or before the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021, by 5:30 p.m. The agenda may be viewed at the City's website at: [www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/human-relations-commission](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/human-relations-commission).



Charlotte Lacey, Chair  
Human Relations Commission



Tamer Sabha, Recording Secretary

**\*DRAFT MINUTES\***



**CITY OF PASADENA  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021  
3:00 PM**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Rene Gonzalez (joined at 3:05pm), Sandy Greenstein, Kevork Keushkerian, Charlotte Lacey, Brandon Lamar, Theresa Robinett, Hamed Shirmohammadi

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Brenda Morales (unexcused)

**STAFF PRESENT:** LaWayne Williams, Tamer Sabha

**1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**

Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. Staff (Sabha) called the roll and a quorum was established for the Commission.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES,**

After review, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Lamar) to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 meeting. (Motion unanimously carried)

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>IN FAVOR</b>
Lacey	x
Lamar	x
Robinett	x
Keushkerian	x
Greenstein	x
Shirmohammadi	x

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

▪ **COMMISSION TO DESIGNATE A TEMPORARY VICE-CHAIR**

After discussion, it was moved (Lamar) and seconded (Greenstein) to designate Commissioner Brandon Lamar to serve as Vice-Chair through June 2021. (Motion unanimously carried)

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>IN FAVOR</b>
Lacey	x
Lamar	x
Robinett	x

Gonzalez	X
Keushkerian	X
Greenstein	X
Shirmohammadi	X

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

- **DISCUSS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MULTIMEDIA HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**

The Commission discussed accepting submissions virtually with a deadline of Friday, April 16, and having the ad hoc committee evaluate the contest submissions to present at the Commission meeting in May.

Chair Lacey volunteered to update the essay contest flyer and send to Staff (Williams) for review by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Staff (Williams) confirmed that prize money for the contest is in the Recreation and Parks Foundation account.

- **DISCUSS HOLDING A SPECIAL MEETING IN 2021 ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT HUMAN RELATIONS IN THE CITY OF PASADENA**  
The Commission continued their discussion on holding a special meeting on issues that affect human relations in the City of Pasadena.

The Commission requested that Staff (Williams) contact the City Attorney's office for guidance in naming the special meeting correctly.

- **DISCUSS RECOGNITION OF 2020 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS**  
The Commission continued their discussion of recognizing the 2020 Human Relations Commission Annual Award Winners and decided to select award winners for 2021 and honor three years of award winners (2020-2022) in 2022.

The Commission requested Staff (Sabha) send information about the award descriptions and the list of 2020 award winners.

- **COMMISSION WORK PLAN UPDATES**  
After discussion, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Gonzalez) to approve the updated work plan as discussed. (Motion unanimously carried)

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>IN FAVOR</b>
Lacey	X
Lamar	X

Robinett	X
Gonzalez	X
Keushkerian	X
Greenstein	X
Shirmohammadi	X

## 5. COMMENTS AND UPDATES

### ▪ COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None

### ▪ STAFF COMMENTS

Staff (Williams) provided the following comments:

- Shared updates about the City's response to COVID-19:
  - o The City of Pasadena and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is working with Huntington Hospital on vaccination efforts and informing seniors about COVID-19 vaccinations.
  - o The City is also reaching out to communities of color to let them know there are vaccines available and ensure the vaccine is accessible and equitable.
  - o The Great Plates Delivered program will be ending on Saturday, February 6, but staff will be working with local food pantries through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.
- Shared information about celebratory events during Black History month in February.

## 6. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

- Discuss identifying specific issues to focus on for special meetings that affect human relations in Pasadena (action item)

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved (Gonzalez) and seconded (Greenstein) to adjourn the special meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 PM.

## CITY OF PASADENA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### WORK PLAN: 08/01/2020-06/30/2021

#### MISSION (as stated in Charter/Ordinance):

The purpose of the Human Relations Commission is to aid the city in achieving better human relations in city government, and to provide assistance to private persons and groups in promoting good will and better relations among all people. The Human Relations Commission is an advisory body.

#### OBJECTIVES:

<b>1.</b>	<p>To advise City Council on Human Relations issues of public, local and national concerns with regular updates to provide an opportunity to review and understand issues for the decision making process.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Work Plan Updates:</b></p> <p>August 2020: The Commission established a draft of the FY20-21 work plan.</p> <p>September 2020: The Commission approved the work plan for FY 20-21.</p> <p>October 2020: No update was provided.</p> <p>November 2020: No update was provided.</p> <p>December 2020: No update was provided.</p> <p>January 2021: The Commission approved submitting a public comment to the City Council about recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday.</p> <p>February 2021: Chair Lacey submitted a public comment on behalf of the Commission recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday for the City Council meeting on Monday, January 11.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p>To present public forums, panels, and programs on issues that affect human relations in the City of Pasadena.</p>



Lacey, Lamar, Gonzalez

Rekindling the Light of Peace ad hoc: Lacey (Lead), Gonzalez, Shirmohammadi

**Action Items:**

- Rekindling the Light of Peace
- Multimedia High School Essay Contest
- Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony
- Investigate alternatives to in-person forums, panels, and programs

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**Work Plan Updates:**

August 2020: The Commission established a draft of the FY20-21 work plan.

September 2020:

- Chair Nehdar appointed Commissioners Nehdar, Lacey, Greenstein, and Gonzalez to the Rekindling the Light of Peace ad hoc committee.
- Chair Nehdar appointed Commissioners Greenstein (lead), Lamar, Nehdar, and Robinett to an ad hoc committee to discuss meeting regarding social justice.

October 2020: The ad hoc committee decided and approved holding the Rekindling the Light of Peace event through Zoom on Saturday, January 9, 2021.

November 2020:

- The ad hoc committee confirmed the Rekindling the Light of Peace virtual event will take place on Saturday, January 9, 2021 from 10:00am-11:30am on Zoom.
- Vice-Chair Lacey will contact potential speakers for the event and select the keynote speaker.
- Chair Nehdar confirmed a musical performance and the Commission discussed the logistics of pre-recording portions of the event.
- The Commission requested Staff (Williams) look into the possibility of recognizing the 2020 Human Relations Commission Annual Award winners at a future City Council meeting.
- Commissioners discussed requesting certificates of appreciation for the 2020 Human Relations Commission Annual Award winners from Senator Anthony Portantino and Assembly member Chris Holden.

	<p>December 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Nehdar shared that the Multimedia High School Essay Contest will be postponed due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Chair Nehdar contacted Pasadena Media (KPAS) to participate in the Rekindling the Light of Peace event and will be emailing invitations, selecting a speaker, and finding a performer for the national anthem.</li> </ul> <p>January 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission discussed cancelling the Rekindling the Light of Peace event due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• The Commission requested Staff (Williams) to confirm that the scholarship money for the essay contest was deposited with the Pasadena Recreation and Parks Foundation. Staff confirmed that funds for the Multimedia High School Essay Contest have been deposited.</li> </ul> <p>February 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission resumed their discussion about the Multimedia High School Essay Contest and decided to hold the contest and accept virtual submissions with a deadline of Friday, April 16.</li> <li>• The Commission discussed postponing the Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony due to COVID-19, selecting award winners for 2021 during this fiscal year, and recognizing three years of award winners (2020-2022) in person next year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p>To identify and bring attention to collaborations existing within the City of Pasadena that provide assistance to private persons and groups, and/or promote goodwill and better relations among all people.</p> <p>Greenstein (Lead), Robinett, Lamar, Morales</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of local collaborations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pasadena Ministerial Alliance</li> <li>○ Nonprofit social service organizations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Social justice meeting</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Work Plan Updates:</b></p> <p>August 2020: The Commission established a draft of the FY20-21 work plan.</p>

September 2020: Commission ad hoc will identify specific social organizations to discuss at next meeting.

October 2020:

- Chair Nehdar dissolved the ad hoc committee regarding the social justice meeting and added the item into work plan objective #3.
- Commissioner Greenstein updated the Commission in that the ad hoc committee met on Tuesday, September 15 and discussed:
  - Developments with the Pasadena Community Police Oversight Commission.
  - Hosting a Zoom job and resource fair for formerly incarcerated residents.
  - Holding a forum to bridge the gap between the various sections in Pasadena.
  - Community Bill of Rights released by the NAACP and NDLON (National Day Laborer Organization Network) that was released in June 2020.
  - The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Commission work plans for FY 2020-2021 to see how they relate to the work of the Human Relations Commission.

November 2020: The Commission discussed holding a virtual public forum and inviting local community based organizations to present about what they are working on.

December 2020: Commissioner Greenstein shared a recommendation for the program name, format, and potential speakers for the social justice meeting:

- Event Name: Human Relations Commission Public Forum on Social Justice in Pasadena
- Content: A curated group of representatives from each Council District will be panel presenters and discussants.
- Potential Presenters: NAACP Pasadena, NDLON, Flintridge Foundation, Community Pastors Coalition, Pasadena Ministerial Alliance, Hood Liberation

January 2021:

- The Commission continued their discussion of holding a virtual public forum on issues that affect human relations in Pasadena.
  - Commissioner Gonzalez suggested inviting the group, Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG) as a potential presenter for the virtual forum, and will bring information about the group to the next Commission meeting in February.

February 2021:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Commission continued their discussion of holding a special meeting on human relations issues that affect human relations in Pasadena.</li><li>• The Commission requested that staff (Williams) contact the City Attorney's office for guidance on naming the special meeting item.</li></ul> |
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NOTE: Objectives are subject to change with approval by the Commission.