



**Regular Meeting  
Human Relations Commission  
Tuesday, July 6, 2021  
6:30 P.M.**

**Members**

Brandon Lamar, Chair, Mayor  
Sandy Greenstein, Vice-Chair, District 6  
Wilhelmina Robertson, District 1  
Theresa Robinett, District 2  
Rene H. Gonzalez, District 3  
Kevork Keushkerian, District 4  
Katie Young, District 5  
Hamed Shirmohammadi, At Large  
Vacant, District 7

**Staff**

LaWayne Williams, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Superintendent  
Alexis Taylor, Program Coordinator I  
Tamer Sabha, Recording Secretary

**Meeting Information**

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:  
[www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/human-relations-commission/](http://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.

Language translation services may also be requested with 72-hour advance notice by at (626) 744-7292 or [tsabha@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tsabha@cityofpasadena.net). Habrá servicio de interpretación disponible para éstas juntas llamando (626) 744-7295.

## **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/89063559600>

**OR**

**Phone:** 1 (669) 900-6833 – Webinar ID: 890 6355 9600

## **Public Comment Instructions**

If you wish to provide comments, 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: [www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/public-comment](http://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.

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).

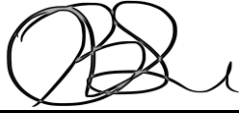


**Agenda**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Human Relations Commission**  
**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**  
**6:30 P.M.**

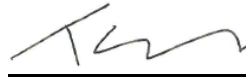
1. **Call to order**
2. **Roll call**
3. **Public comments**
4. **Approval of minutes**
  - May 4, 2021\*
  - June 1, 2021\*
5. **New business**
  - Action Item**
    - Review and approval of final Human Relations Commission Work Plan FY 2021-2022\*
6. **Old business**
  - None
7. **Reports/comments from the Chair**
8. **Comments from Commissioners**
9. **Staff comments**
10. **Upcoming meeting agenda items**
11. **Adjournment**

\*Attachments

Posting statement: I hereby certify that this Agenda, in its entirety was posted on the City Council Chamber Board S249, and the bulletin board in the rotunda area at City Hall, 100 North Garfield Avenue on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 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/).



Brandon Lamar, Chair  
Human Relations Commission



Tamer Sabha, Recording Secretary



**\*Draft Minutes\***

**Regular Meeting  
Human Relations Commission  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021  
6:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Rene Gonzalez, Sandy Greenstein, Kevork Keushkerian, Charlotte Lacey, Brandon Lamar (joined at 6:37pm, departed at 7:12pm), Theresa Robinett, Hamed Shirmohammadi (joined at 6:37pm), Katie Young

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Alexis Taylor, Lola Osborne, Tamer Sabha

**1. Call to Order; Roll Call**

Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Staff (Sabha) called the roll and a quorum was established for the Commission.

**2. Welcome**

The Commission welcomed Katie Young (District 5) who shared her background and experience.

Staff (Taylor) introduced herself as the new staff liaison for the Human Relations Commission.

**3. Public Comments for Items Not On The Agenda**

None

**4. Approval of Minutes**

After review, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Gonzalez) to approve the Minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting. (Motion carried)

In Favor: Lacey, Robinett, Gonzalez, Keushkerian, Shirmohammadi

Abstain: Young, Greenstein

**5. New Business**

**• Discussion of method for selection of winners for Multimedia High School Essay Contest**

After review, it was moved (Lamar) and seconded (Keushkerian) to cancel the the Multimedia High School Essay Contest due to receiving no submissions and resume the contest during FY 2021-2022. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Lacey, Lamar, Robinett, Gonzalez, Keushkerian, Young, Greenstein, Shirmohammadi

- **Select date and time of annual meeting**

After review, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Lamar) to schedule the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 beginning at 4:30pm. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Lacey, Lamar, Robinett, Gonzalez, Keushkerian, Young, Greenstein, Shirmohammadi

- **Establish Nominating Committee for FY 2021-2022 Commission officers**

After review, it was moved and seconded (Greenstein) to accept Chair Lacey's appointment of Commissioners Gonzalez, Robinett, and Lacey to the Nominating Committee for the nomination of FY 2021-2022 Commission officers. (Motion animously carried)

In Favor: Lacey, Lamar, Robinett, Gonzalez, Keushkerian, Young, Greenstein, Shirmohammadi

- **Discussion regarding existing plaques in Old Pasadena that reference historical inaccuracies from 1885 – (Staff, Lola Osborne, Deputy Director)**

The Commission discussed the existing plaques in Old Pasadena that reference historical inaccuracies regarding the fire from 1885 at the Chinese laundry and staff (Osborne) presented the history of the incident and how the city was notified about the inaccuracies. A staff memo provided to the Commission offered the following corrective options for consideration at their July meeting.

- Begin the process to create new plaques solely dedicated to acknowledging this event
- Commission to host a public event to educate the public about the atrocious events from 1885
- Work with city staff to initiate a press release to share with the Pasadena community

The Commission requested:

- Staff to contact the Library and the Planning and Community Development Department to request their assistance in the development of the text for a new plaques.
- Staff to invite representatives from Asian American organizations and Pasadena Heritage to be included in the process of developing the language for the new plaques.

- **Continued discussion of Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education and Governance (PEPPEG) presentation from the April meeting.** Staff (Taylor) provided an update on the PEPPEG presentation stating that the Commission would not be able to circumvent the initiative petition process in pursuit of a ballot initiative. This is because the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education governs their own political processes regarding Board activities, therefore PUSD must take up the matter.

The Commission discussed the importance of bringing attention to issues that affect underrepresented Pasadena residents and requested to add this issue to a future list of issues that affect human relations in the City of Pasadena.

Public Comment:

Brett Shears, representing PEPPEG, submitted a public comment thanking the Commission for their continued discussion on extending voting rights of PUSD parents.

- **Discussion of racial violence issues in the San Gabriel Valley**  
The Commission discussed inviting local non-profit organizations to present on racial violence issues and requested Staff (Taylor) research if there is a report from the Pasadena Police Department or a community organization that focuses on this issue.

Staff (Taylor) commented that the Commission could take this opportunity to educate the community about anti-racism and anti-hate, and hold a public forum in pursuit of the respective work plan objective.

- **Discussion of holding a special meeting in 2021 on issues that affect human relations in the City of Pasadena**  
The Commission discussed inviting local organizations to present on issues that affect human relations in Pasadena.

Staff (Osborne) suggested the Commission create a calendar for presentations they would like to schedule during FY 2021-2022.

## 6. Old Business

- **Commission work plan updates and discussion**  
After review, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Keushkerian) to approve the work plan updates as discussed. (Motion carried)

In Favor: Lacey, Robinett, Gonzalez, Keushkerian, Greenstein, Shirmohammadi  
Abstain: Young

## **7. Comments and Updates**

- **Comments and announcements from Commissioners**

Commissioner Greenstein commented on Article VIII (Committees and Panels) of the Human Relations Commission's rules and regulations that mention establishing a police community relations committee. Staff (Osborne) commented that staff will research how the Human Relations Commission has addressed this committee in the past and provide an update.

- **Staff Comments**

Staff (Taylor) provided the following updates:

- The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department has received approximately 220 ROSE program applications that are being screened before moving candidates to the interview process;
- The City announced the indefinite closure of the Central Library due to seismic safety issues found during a structural assessment, however, library services are being moved to other branches;
- The Legislative Policy Committee will be reviewing all Commission agendas for informational purposes; and
- Los Angeles County has moved into the yellow less restrictive tier for reopenings.

## **8. Suggested Agenda Items for Future Commission Meetings**

- Continued discussion of existing plaques in Old Pasadena that reference historical inaccuracies from 1885
- Continued discussion of the Commission's support of PEPPEG
- Update from staff regarding the Human Relations Commission Rules and Regulations Article VIII (Committees and Panels)

## **9. Adjournment**

It was moved (Keushkerian) and seconded (Gonzalez) to adjourn the regular meeting. (Motion unanimously carried) The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.





**\*Draft Minutes\***

**Special Meeting  
Human Relations Commission  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
4:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Sandy Greenstein, Kevork Keushkerian (departed at 6:12pm), Brandon Lamar, Wilhelmina Robertson, Theresa Robinett, Hamed Shirmohammadi (departed at 5:06pm), Katie Young

Commissioners Absent: Rene Gonzalez (unexcused)

Staff Present: Alexis Taylor, LaWayne Williams, Lola Osborne, Tamer Sabha

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Lamar called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

The Commission welcomed new Commissioner Wilhelmina Robertson (District 1), who shared her background and experience.

**2. Roll Call**

Staff (Sabha) called the roll and a quorum was established for the Commission

**3. New Business**

- **Review and approval of Commission attendance record for FY 2020-2021**  
After discussion, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Robinett) to approve the Human Relations Commission meeting Attendance Record for FY 2020-2021. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Lamar, Robertson, Robinett, Keushkerian, Young, Greenstein, Shirmohammadi

- **Report from the Nominating Committee for recommended FY 2021-2022 Commission officers (oral report)**

The Nominating Committee reported no recommendations for FY 2021-2022 Commission officers.

Nominations from the floor:

Chair: Commissioner Lamar – Nominated by Commissioner Robertson and seconded by Commissioner Greenstein.

Vice-Chair: Commissioner Greenstein – Nominated by Commissioner Keushkerian and seconded by Commissioner Robertson.

- **Election of Commission officers for FY 2021-2022**

After discussion, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Robertson) to elect Commissioner Brandon Lamar to serve as Chair for FY 2021-2022. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Lamar, Robertson, Robinett, Keushkerian, Young, Greenstein, Shirmohammadi

After discussion, it was moved (Robinett) and seconded (Keushkerian) to elect Commissioner Sandy Greenstein to serve as Vice-Chair for FY 2021-2022. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Lamar, Robertson, Robinett, Keushkerian, Young, Greenstein, Shirmohammadi

- **Chair to appoint Parliamentarian for FY 2021-2022**

Chair-elect Lamar appointed Commissioner Robertson to serve as Parliamentarian for FY 2021-2022.

- **Establish work plan for FY 2021-2022**

The Commission discussed the objectives and action items for the FY 2021-2022 work plan. See attached

Chair Lamar appointed Commissioners Robertson, Greenstein, and Young to the Advise City Council (Objective #1) ad hoc committee.

Chair Lamar appointed himself and Commissioners Robertson and Robinett to the Public Forums (Objective #2) ad hoc committee.

Chair Lamar appointed Commissioners Young, Greenstein, and Robinett to the Collaborations (Objective #3) ad hoc committee.

#### **4. Old Business**

- None

#### **5. Reports/comments from the Chair**

None

#### **6. Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Robertson encouraged Commissioners to contact their City Councilmembers to share their thoughts about the annual meeting and receive feedback to share at the next Commission meeting in July.

Commissioner Young asked staff about the timeline for resuming in person Commission meetings.

**7. Staff Comments**

Staff (Williams) provided the following updates:

- The City is working out details for resuming in person meetings for Committees and Commissions; and
- The City is moving forward in the reopening plan with having all staff back in person on Tuesday, July 6.

Staff (Taylor) provided the following update:

- Formatting of the Commission meeting agenda, minutes, and work plan have been updated by the City's Accessibility Coordinator to improve the document accessibility and readability.

**8. Upcoming meeting agenda items**

- Review and approval of FY 2021-2022 work plan
- Discussion of presentation calendar for FY 2021-2022

**9. Adjournment**

It was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Robertson) to adjourn the special meeting. (Motion unanimously carried) The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.

**City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission  
Draft Work Plan: 07/01/21 – 06/30/22**

**Mission:**

The purpose of this 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.

**FY 21-22 Objectives:**

Objective #1 – Advise City Council

Objective #2 – Public Forums

Objective #3 – Collaborations

## **Objective #1 – Advise City Council**

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.

Commissioners: Robertson, Greenstein, Young

### **Action Items:**

- Encourage each City Councilmember to improve communications and foster increased interactions with residents via the utilization of social media, newsletters, and an array of other mediums.
- Inform, on a monthly basis, Councilmembers of local needs and report discussion outcomes during commission meetings.
- Design, solicit, and evaluate a Human Relations Commission Community Survey; concurrently remove the existing published survey from the Commission's webpage.
- Render a recommendation regarding the Mill's Place plaque:
  - For staff to begin the process to create new plaques solely dedicated to acknowledging this event,
  - To host a public event to educate the public about the atrocious events from 1885, or
  - To work with city staff to initiate a press release to share with the Pasadena community.
- Attend District meetings to share the progress of Commission-related activities.

### **Work Plan Updates:**

July 2021:

## **Objective #2 – Public Forums**

To present public forums, panels, and programs on issues that affect human relations in the City of Pasadena.

Commissioners: Lamar, Robertson, Robinett

### **Action Items:**

- Support programs that highlight the principles of Martin Luther King Jr.
- Sponsor Multimedia High School Essay Contest
- Sponsor Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony
- Investigate alternatives to in-person forums, panels, and programs.

### **Work Plan Updates:**

July 2021:

## **Objective #3 – Collaborations**

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.

Commissioners: Young, Greenstein, Robinett

### **Action Items:**

- Identify local collaborations that support the Human Relations Commission's objectives.
- Create a presentation calendar for FY 2021-2022.

### **Work Plan Updates:**

July 2021:

# Human Relations Commission

Draft Presentation Calendar FY 2021-2022

To be scheduled:

- Cultural Signage Project for 10 W. Walnut (Parsons Project) – Mark Workman, LPC West (November or December 2021)

August 2021:

September 2021:

October 2021:

November 2021:

December 2021:

January 2022:

February 2022:

March 2022:

April 2022:

May 2022:

June 2022: Annual Meeting