



**Regular Meeting  
Human Relations Commission  
Tuesday, November 2, 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**

Alexis Taylor, Program Coordinator I  
Tamer Sabha, Recording Secretary

**Meeting Information**

Human Relations Commission regular 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) 744-7295 or [tsabha@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tsabha@cityofpasadena.net). Habrá servicio de interpretación disponible para éstas juntas llamando (626) 744-7295.

## **Public Participation**

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/86582372818>**

**OR**

**Phone: 1 (669) 900-6833 – Webinar ID: 865 8237 2818**

## **Public Comment Instructions**

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

### **1. Advance Correspondence, to become part of the record:**

Members of the public may submit correspondence of any length prior to the start of the meeting, at the following email address: [tsabha@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tsabha@cityofpasadena.net). 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. Live public comments during the meeting:**

During the meeting, members of the public may provide live public comment on an agenda item, at the time the Chair solicits public comment, by either (a) if using the Zoom program, selecting the “raise hand” function; or (b) if participating by telephone, pressing \*9 to raise your hand. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes each, and the Chair or the Commission may limit this time if reasonable under the circumstances.

Your phone call to the Commission meeting will be recorded as part of the Commission meeting. By staying on the line and making public comment during the Commission meeting, you are agreeing to have your phone call recorded.

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).



**Regular Meeting  
Human Relations Commission  
Tuesday, November 2, 2021  
6:30 P.M.**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Roll call**
- 3. Public comments for items not on the agenda**
- 4. Approval of minutes**
  - October 5, 2021\*
- 5. New business**
  - Action Items**
    - Discussion to support the Martin Luther King Community Coalition's Annual Essay and Art Contest and to modify the Commission's action items in work plan objective #2 (Public Forums) to reflect this support
    - Review and approve a letter to City Council recommending the proposed Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG) initiative that would allow all parents of Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections
- 6. Old business**
  - Action Item**
    - Commission work plan updates and discussion\*
- 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 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, October 5, 2021  
6:30 P.M.**

**Commissioners Present:** Rene Gonzalez, Sandy Greenstein, Kevork Keushkerian, Brandon Lamar, Wilhelmina Robertson, Theresa Robinett, Hamed Shirmohammadi\*, Katie Young

\*Due to technical issues, Commissioner Shirmohammadi departed the meeting at 7:22 PM, rejoined at 7:23 PM, and departed again at 7:47 PM

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Alexis Taylor, Tamer Sabha

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Lamar called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

**2. Roll call**

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

**3. Public comments**

None

**4. Approval of minutes**

After review, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Keushkerian) to approve the Minutes of the September 7, 2021 regular meeting. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

**5. New Business**

- **Presentation from the We Must Breathe Advisory Committee regarding their purpose and collaborative opportunities – Danny Parker (Economic Subcommittee Co-Chair and Health Subcommittee member, We Must Breathe Advisory Committee)**

The Commission received a presentation about the purpose of the, We Must Breathe Advisory Committee. Questions from the Commission followed.

Staff (Taylor) advised the Commission that they could invite Mr. Parker to return and present at a future meeting about possible collaborative efforts between the We Must Breathe Committee and the Human Relations Commission.

- **Presentation from the Martin Luther King Community Coalition regarding their annual essay and art contest – Jacqueline Jacobs (President, Martin Luther King Community Coalition)**

The Commission received a presentation from the Martin Luther King Community Coalition about their annual essay and art contest and the Commission expressed their desire to support the coalition with the annual contest. Questions from the Commission followed.

- **Discussion to add an action item to Work Plan, objective #1, to include the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the proposed Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG) initiative that would allow all parents of Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections**

After discussion, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Gonzalez) to approve the addition of an action item to work plan objective number one to include the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the proposed Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG) initiative that would allow parents of Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections. (Motion carried)

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

Chair Lamar appointed himself , Vice-Chair Greenstein, and Commissioner Gonzalez to an ad hoc committee to research the PEPPEG initiative that would allow all parents of PUSD children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections.

Public Comment:

Julieta, a Pasadena resident, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission supporting non-citizens parents of PUSD children voting in PUSD School Board elections.

Luz, a Pasadena resident, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission supporting expanding the right to vote in PUSD School Board elections to all parents, regardless of their legal status.

Brett Shears, Co-Chair of PEPPEG, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission thanking the Commission for dedicating time to discuss the issue of extending voting rights for all PUSD parents.

## 6. Old business

### • Commission work plan updates and discussion

After discussion, it was moved (Gonzalez) and seconded (Young) to approve the work plan updates as discussed. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

### Public Comment:

Kaz Doi, a Pasadena resident, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission in support of revising the language of the Mills Place Plaque, and offered to present his findings about the history behind the plaque at a future Commission meeting.

## 7. Reports/comments from the Chair

Chair Lamar commented on the redistricting process and recommended Commissioners attend redistricting meetings in order to let their voices be heard.

## 8. Comments from Commissioners

Vice-Chair Greenstein thanked members of the public who have submitted a public comment and the meeting presenters for dedicating their time to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Robertson shared the following comments:

- Attended the virtual Redistricting Taskforce meeting on Saturday, October 2;
- Assisted in Huntington Hospital's diversity, equity, and inclusion survey;
- Asked Staff (Taylor) who is responsible for thanking meeting presenters after the meeting;
- Thanked people who have taken the time to submit a public comment to the Commission; and
- Asked for confirmation in the process for scheduling future meeting presenters.

Staff (Taylor) clarified that Commissioners are responsible for scheduling presentations from external organizations and staff will contact City and governmental staff to schedule a presentation. Staff (Taylor) will follow-up with the Commission after confirming the process of contacting presenters to thank them after the meeting.

## 9. Staff Comments

Staff (Taylor) provided the following comments:

- The Jackie Robinson Community Center has restarted programs and, in consideration of classes reaching capacity, is looking to work with the Pasadena Senior Center to add additional classes on additional days;
- The Jackie Robinson Community Center is still hosting the "Wednesday Hot Meals" program every Wednesday evening;
- Working to approve the TechGYRLS (STEM program) in partnership with the YWCA and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department;
- Working in partnership with the Library to launch a social justice book club;
- Thanked Commissioners for the outreach performed for the successful "Coffee with Community Services" event on Tuesday, September 21, the next event will include external organizations for a resource symposium; and

- Upcoming events include the Black History Parade and Festival and a number of holiday programming including a turkey giveaway, gift giveaway, and a Kwanzaa collaboration with Pasadena City College.

#### **10. Upcoming meeting agenda items**

- Review a letter of support of the proposed Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG) initiative that would allow all parents of Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections
- Discussion to support the Martin Luther King Community Coalition in their annual essay and art contest
- Presentation from Kaz Doi about the history behind the Mills Place Plaque
- Presentation from the Western Justice Center

#### **11. Adjournment**

It was moved (Gonzalez) and seconded (Robertson) to adjourn the regular meeting. (Motion unanimously carried) The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.



**City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission**  
**Work Plan: 07/01/2021 – 06/30/2022**

**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 2021-2022 Objectives:**

Objective #1 – Advise and Engage City Council

Objective #2 – Public Forums

Objective #3 – Collaborations

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

To advise and engage 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 City Councilmembers to enhance their online presence in order to foster diverse community relationships and increase interpersonal communication with residents.
- Engage youth interns to perform social media analyses of community connectedness and responsiveness to Councilmembers' content in order to assess local issues.
- Inform, on a monthly basis, Councilmembers of HRC meeting action items and local needs in order to report discussion outcomes during commission meetings.
- Design, solicit, and evaluate a Human Relations Commission Community Survey.
- Render a recommendation regarding the Mills Place Plaque:
  - Staff to begin the process to create a new plaque solely dedicated to acknowledging this event,
  - Host a public event to educate the public about the atrocious events from 1885, or
  - Work with City staff to initiate a press release to share with the Pasadena community.
- Attend Council District meetings to share the progress of Commission-related activities as needed.
- Form an ad hoc committee to examine the proposed Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG) initiative that would allow all parents of Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections.
  - Ad hoc committee to examine the PEPPEG initiative: Lamar, Greenstein, Gonzalez

### **Work Plan Updates:**

July 2021:

- Staff removed the link to the existing Human Relations Commission Community Survey from the Commission's webpage.

#### August 2021:

- Commissioner Robertson provided an update that she contacted Councilmember Hampton after the meeting in July to share what the Commission is working on in FY 2021-2022.

#### September 2021:

- Four out of seven Commissioners contacted their Councilmember after the meeting in August to highlight what the Commission is currently working on.
- Staff (Taylor) confirmed that the Commission can request an intern to assist with work plan objectives and requested the Commission to send a list to staff of tasks required to help narrow down the list of available candidates.
- Staff (Taylor) advised the Commission that one Commission cannot recommend a policy to a parallel Commission (Historic Preservation Commission).

#### October 2021:

- The Commission voted to approve the addition of an action item to form an ad hoc committee to examine the proposed Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG) initiative that would allow all parents of Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections.
- Chair Lamar appointed himself, Vice-Chair Greenstein, and Commissioner Gonzalez to an ad hoc committee to study the PEPPEG initiative that would allow all parents of PUSD children, including non-citizen parents, to vote in PUSD School Board elections.
- Update from Commissioners attending City Council District meetings and communicating with their Councilmember:
  - Vice-Chair Greenstein attended two community events and spoke to Councilmember Madison's District Liaison (Takako Suzuki) asking if they would like to add articles about the work of the Commission to District 6 newsletters.
  - Commissioner Robertson sent an email updating Councilmember Hampton about the Commission meeting in September.
  - Commissioner Young shared that Councilmember Rivas will be scheduling a meeting for all District 5 Commission representatives.
  - Commissioner Robinett attended Councilmember Williams' virtual town hall meeting on Wednesday, September 30, which included presentations from Police Chief Perez and the Department of Transportation.
  - Commissioner Keushkerian sent an email to Councilmember Masuda's District Liaison (Noreen Sullivan) asking her to be included in future District 4 meetings.
  - Commissioner Gonzalez attended Councilmember Kennedy's community meeting on Wednesday, September, which included presentations from the Department of Transportation and the Police Department.
- Commissioner Young drafted a job description and duties for a ROSE program intern that was sent to Staff (Taylor). Commissioner Young volunteered to supervise the ROSE intern once they are assigned.

- Commissioner Young requested the leads for Objective #2 (Public Forums) contact her with ideas of additional responsibilities that could be supported by the ROSE intern.
- Staff (Taylor) hosted a meeting with Pasadena Heritage, who consulted with their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee and will provide the names of three organizations they think should be involved with the development of the language for the new plaque. They are also recommending to potentially establish a panel of individuals with members from the Asian-American community to help provide feedback on the proposed language.

## **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 a Multimedia High School Contest.
- Sponsor Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony.
- Investigate alternatives to in-person forums, panels, and programs.

### **Work Plan Updates:**

July 2021:

- The Commission worked on defining action items for the public forums work plan objective.

August 2021:

- The Commission received a presentation from Pasadena Water and Power about the planning process and best practices for their annual “Water is Life” Student Art Contest before discussing ways to change the format for the Multimedia High School Contest in an effort to conduct outreach, collaborate with local organizations, and receive more submissions.

September 2021:

- No update provided.

October 2021:

- The Commission received a presentation from the Martin Luther King Community Coalition about their annual essay and art contest, and the Commission expressed their desire to support the coalition with the annual contest.
- The Public Forums ad hoc committee will schedule a meeting to discuss the possibility of hosting a virtual public forum to discuss the Mills Place Plaque.

## 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 to better engage community organizations towards achieving Human Relations Commission action items.

### Work Plan Updates:

July 2021:

- The Commission worked on defining action items for the collaborations work plan objective.

August 2021:

- The Commission voted to approve the work plan for FY 2021-2022.

September 2021:

- Commissioner Young created a spreadsheet of local community organizations representing different minority groups, such as those that focus on disenfranchised populations, and special interests that the Commission can begin to contact to schedule presentations and will send the document to Staff (Taylor).
- Staff (Taylor) communicated with Pasadena Heritage about collaborating with the Commission on the updated language of the Mills Place Plaques.

October 2021:

- The Commission received a presentation from the We Must Breathe Advisory Committee about their purpose.
- Commissioner Young is in communication with the Western Justice Center in Pasadena to schedule a presentation for November meeting. Their mission statement is to “empower people to strengthen their communities by growing the conflict resolution skills and capacity of youth, educators, schools, and community partners.”

Human Relations Commission  
Draft Presentation Calendar FY 2021-2022  
(updated 10/19/21)

To be scheduled:

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

August 2021:

- Presentation regarding Pasadena Water and Power’s approach to organizing their annual “Water is Life” Student Art Contest – Renae Plave (Events and Education Coordinator, Pasadena Water and Power)

September 2021: No presentation scheduled

October 2021:

- Presentation from the We Must Breathe Advisory Committee regarding their purpose and collaborative opportunities – Danny Parker (Economic Subcommittee Co-Chair and Health Subcommittee member)
- Presentation from the Martin Luther King Community Coalition regarding their annual essay and art contest – Jacqueline Jacobs (President)

November 2021:

- TBD

December 2021:

- Presentation from the Western Justice Center about their mission and purpose

January 2022:

- TBD

February 2022:

- TBD

March 2022:

- TBD

April 2022:

- TBD

May 2022:

- TBD

June 2022: Annual Meeting