



**Regular Meeting
Human Relations Commission
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

Members

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

Staff

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

Meeting Information

Human Relations Commission regular meetings are held on the 1st 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/

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. 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. 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/88186401251>

OR

Phone: 1 (669) 900-6833 – Webinar ID: 881 8640 1251

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. These comments will be provided to the members of the body if received by 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and will become part of the meeting record. They will not be read aloud. Correspondence received after that time will be provided to members of the body later.

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.



**Regular Meeting
Human Relations Commission
Tuesday, December 7, 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**
 - November 2, 2021*
- 5. New business**
 - Action Items**
 - Discussion regarding rescheduling the January 4, 2022 Commission meeting
 - Discussion to consider receiving monthly Community Brief incident reports from the Pasadena Police Department*
 - Review and approve the new language for the Mills Place Plaques, regarding inaccuracies pertaining to a Chinese business and settlers and Pasadena*
 - Chair to appoint a Commissioner to represent the Human Relations Commission at City Council meetings to provide public comment on matters of interest
 - Information Item**
 - Discuss the Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony
- 6. Old business**
 - Information Item**
 - Discuss collaborative efforts regarding the Martin Luther King Community Coalition's Annual Essay and Art Contest
 - 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 2nd day of December 2021, by 5:30 p.m. The agenda may be viewed at the City's website at 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, November 2, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Theresa Robinett (excused)

Staff Present: Alexis Taylor, Tamer Sabha

1. Call to Order

Chair Lamar called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

2. Roll call

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

3. Public comments for items not on the agenda

None

4. Approval of minutes

After review, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Robertson) to approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2021 regular meeting with the amendment to the title of agenda item #3 to "Public comments for items not on the agenda". (Motion unanimously carried)

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

5. New business

- **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**

After discussion, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Young) to approve a collaboration between the Human Relations Commission and Martin Luther King Community Coalition regarding their Annual Essay and Art Contest in 2022. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

- **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**

Vice-Chair Greenstein presented and read for the Commission a Resolution instead of a letter for the Commission to approve and send to the City Council.

It was moved (Gonzalez) and seconded (Robertson) to approve the Resolution to be sent to the 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, with the amendment of the title under the Commission Chair's signature. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

Public Comment:

Brett Shears, Co-Chair of PEPPEG, provided a live public comment in support of the Resolution being sent to the City Council and thanked the Commission for their support.

Julie McKune provided a live public comment in support of the PEPPEG initiative allowing all PUSD parents to vote in school board elections.

Jazmin De La Torre provided a live public comment in support of expanding voting rights to all parents of PUSD children.

Florence Annang, Co-Chair of Pasadenans Organizing for Progress, provided a live public comment in support of expanding voting rights to all parents of PUSD children.

Elizabeth Barrios, a Pasadena resident, provided a live public comment in support of expanding voting rights to all parents and guardians of PUSD children.

Dr. Victor Gonzalez submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission in support of expanding voting rights to all parents of PUSD children.

Beau Wammack submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission in support of expanding voting rights to all parents of PUSD children.

Javier Gutierrez, a Pasadena resident and member of PEPPEG, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission in support of the Resolution

being sent to the City Council in favor of allowing all parents to have a voice in their child's education.

James Joyce, a Pasadena resident, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission supporting the Resolution being sent to the City Council to expand voting rights to all parents of PUSD children.

Paula Sanchez, a Pasadena resident, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission in support of expanding voting rights to all parents of PUSD children.

Bonnie Skolnik, a Pasadena resident, submitted a public comment that was read to the Commission in support of the placement of a ballot issue to include voting rights to all parents of current PUSD students.

6. Old business

• Commission work plan updates and discussion

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

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

7. Reports/comments from the Chair

Chair Lamar provided the following comments:

- The recent community violence and how he was personally affected by it;
- Asked staff (Taylor) about the Commission receiving crime reports from the Pasadena Police Department like the Northwest Commission; and
- Requested that the Commission receive information about youth programs in Pasadena for the Commission to perform outreach and learn about local issues involving youth.

Staff (Taylor) recommended that the Commission add an agenda item for the December meeting for the Commission to collectively discuss and approve receiving monthly police department crime report briefings.

8. Comments from Commissioners

Vice-Chair Greenstein thanked Commissioner Young for engaging the ROSE program intern (Sterling) who is assigned to assist the Commission with their work plan objectives.

Commissioner Robertson commented that approximately two dozen employees of the Jet Propulsion Lab demonstrated against the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

Commissioner Keushkerian commented on being a member of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, and asked if the Commission would like to collaborate with them. Commissioner Keushkerian forwarded a survey to Chair Lamar and staff (Taylor) for them to review.

9. Staff Comments

Staff (Taylor) provided the following comments:

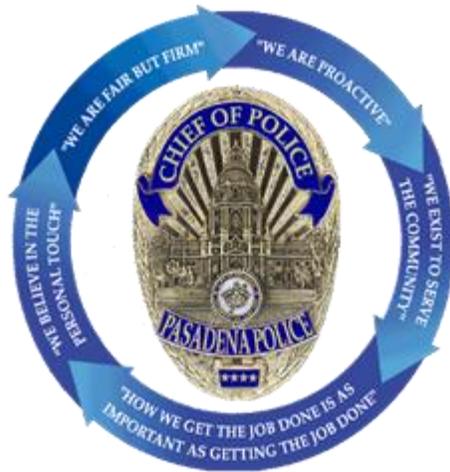
- Received the survey mentioned by Commissioner Keushkerian and contacted additional staff for guidance;
- Shared an update about the ROSE program intern (Sterling) who is assigned to assist the Commission to fulfill their work plan objectives;
- Shared that the draft language for the Mills Place Plaque will be included in the December meeting agenda packet for the Commission's review;
- In response to a question from the October meeting, the Chair can draft a thank you letter to presenters with staff sending the letters on behalf of the Commission;
- In response to a question from the October meeting, the process for Commissioners to attend events which includes staff vetting the event in order to determine the reason the Commissioner would be attending, and the Commission formally approving the attendance prior to the event; and
- Shared that the STEAM program in partnership with the YWCA of Glendale and Pasadena begins on Thursday, November 4 at the Jackie Robinson Community Center.

10. Upcoming meeting agenda items

- Discussion of the Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony
- Review revised language for the Mills Place Plaque
- Discussion of collaborating with the Martin Luther King Community Coalition on their annual essay and art contest
- Chair to appoint a Commissioner to represent the Commission at a future City Council meeting in support of the PEPPEG Resolution
- Discussion about receiving Pasadena Police Department crime reports

11. Adjournment

It was moved (Robertson) and seconded (Keushkerian) to adjourn the regular meeting. (Motion unanimously carried) The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.



The Pasadena Way

Excellence • Innovation • Integrity

PASADENA POLICE - COMMUNITY BRIEF
October 2021

This information provides a greater awareness to the Pasadena community. The critical events detailed below are merely a snapshot of the calls received to the Police Communications Center every day. Your police department strives to better serve the Pasadena community. Under Police Chief John Perez, the principles of the “Pasadena Way” will forever have a lasting impact on all employees who serve in the organization, as we continue to police with compassion and best intentions.

Total Calls for Service for October 2021: 9,488 (YTD: 95,735)

9-1-1 Calls for October 2021: 4,871 (YTD: 51,688)

Total calls received by Police Dispatch Center: 18,579 (YTD: 196,520)

De-Escalation Techniques Used During Calls: 205 times (YTD: 2,182)

October 2021 Collected / Seized Firearms: 16 (YTD: 273)

Pistols – 10 (YTD: 215)

Rifles /Assault Rifles – 5 (YTD: 39)

Shotguns – 1 (YTD: 19)

October 1, 2021 at 7:38pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of Raymond Ave. and McCormick Alley regarding a subject who attempted to enter a religious establishment. Security prevented the subject from entering the building. The subject made threats, but was unsuccessful at gaining entry. The subject then damaged the door to the building prior to walking away. The subject was later located, identified and placed in custody without incident for vandalism and a hate crime.

October 1, 2021 at 7:57pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of El Molino Ave. and Woodland Rd. regarding a motorcyclist who had struck a tree. No other vehicles were involved in the collision. The motorist was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Pasadena's Major Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.) responded to complete the investigation.

October 3, 2021 at 7:36pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the 300 block of E. Villa St. regarding an unconscious person who has sustained significant head injuries. It was determined that the subject was assaulted and robbed of personal items at a nearby park. The subject was not able to provide much more information to assist in the investigation.

October 4, 2021 at 12:30am: Pasadena Officers responded to the area of Maple St. and Raymond Ave. regarding shots heard. Officers located evidence of a shooting, but no victims or witnesses were located.

October 4, 2021 at 11:11am: Pasadena Officers responded to the Colorado Street Bridge regarding subject on the outside of the safety fence. Officers contacted the subject and built a report. Pasadena Fire Department responded and worked with officers to bring the subject back to safety. The subject was later admitted to a local hospital for evaluation.

October 5, 2021 at 7:13pm: Pasadena Officers responded to the 1000 block of N. Raymond Ave. regarding a domestic violence call. The known suspect forced entry into the residence and assaulted the victim while she was holding their child. The victim sustained traumatic injuries and was provided medical treatment at a local hospital. The suspect, who had fled prior to the officers' arrival, was captured in the immediate area a short time later and was booked for several different crimes.

October 6, 2021 at 2:17pm: Pasadena Detectives responded to the 400 block of N. Garfield Ave. conducting follow-up of a previous theft investigation. Police Detectives contacted a person inside a vehicle believed to have been used during the theft. The driver admitted to having a firearm inside the vehicle and he was detained without incident. A loaded firearm was recovered from inside the vehicle and the subject was arrested for theft and weapons charges.

October 6, 2021 at 7:16pm: Officers responded to the area of Corson St. and Lake Ave. regarding a vehicle colliding with a pedestrian who had been crossing the street in traffic. The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital in critical condition and later succumbed to his injuries. The Pasadena Police Major Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.) responded and took over the investigation.

October 6, 2021 at 10:23pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of De Lacey Ave. and Del Mar Blvd. in regards to a home invasion robbery. Two unknown subjects forced their way into the victim's home. Once inside, one of the subjects struck the resident, causing visible injuries. The subjects stole jewelry and firearms before fleeing to an awaiting getaway car.

October 8, 2021 at 8:30pm: A Pasadena Police Officer was patrolling the shopping area in the 3400 block of E. Foothill Bl. when a loss prevention agent from one of the businesses flagged down the officer to report a subject leaving the store with a bag of unpaid merchandise. The officer attempted to stop the subject and she ran to her car and attempted to flee from the officer. The officer pursued the subject for approximately one mile before she pulled over and surrendered without incident. The loss was recovered and the subject was booked at the Pasadena Police Jail.

October 10, 2021 at 6:58pm: Pasadena Police Officers assisted the Pasadena Fire Department in the 100 block of S. Meridith Ave. in response to a residential fire. Residents were evacuated and only two units were affected by the fire. Minor smoke inhalation was reported but no serious injuries. One family was displaced and took shelter with family outside the city.

October 12, 2021 at 11:05am: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the 700 block of Elmira St. regarding a robbery. The victim told officers that he was waiting to be picked up, when a vehicle drove passed him and the driver simulated pointing a weapon. Moments later, the person from the vehicle approached the victim, pointing a handgun. The victim yelled to surrounding neighbors causing the suspect to flee to the awaiting vehicle. No loss or injury was reported.

October 13, 2021 at 2:00pm: Pasadena Police Officers from the Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) conducted a traffic stop in the area of Arroyo Pkwy and California Bl. for a vehicle code violation. During the stop, a search of the vehicle revealed narcotics, ammunition and documents consistent with identity theft. Additional investigation at the driver's residence led to the recovery of a firearm. Officers arrested the driver for a variety of crimes and transported him to the Pasadena City Jail.

October 14, 2021 at 4:33pm: Officers responded to a City park located near Walnut St. and Raymond Ave. regarding a female who was reportedly swinging a baseball bat at others. Officers arrived and immediately located and detained the described subject as well as a metal baseball bat on the ground, a few yards from her. Witnesses and victims identified this person as the subject. It was learned through the investigation that she had struck one victim and damaged two different vehicles with the bat.

October 15, 2021 at 6:25am: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the 200 block of E. California Bl. regarding a trespass. Officers contacted the subject on the second floor of the building and asked the subject to leave the location. The subject took a fighting stance and clenched his fists towards the officers. After several attempts to deescalate the situation, the suspect refused to surrender into custody and fought with officers. Officers were eventually able to take the subject into custody and he was transported to a local hospital for minor injuries.

October 15, 2021 at 12:46pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the 400 block of E. Union St. Regarding a subject whom approached a couple as they were walking to their vehicle which was parked in a nearby parking garage. The subject attempted to take a cell phone from victim

whom pushed the suspect away. Fearing for their safety, the couple entered their car and the suspect ran to a waiting car, leaving the area. No injuries were documented.

October 17, 2021 at 5:43pm: Pasadena Police and Fire responded to four fires over a two-hour period. The first two were in close proximity in the area of Corson St. and Hill Ave. The remaining two occurred at the 700 block of Walnut St. and 1800 block of Locust St. Evidence found at each of the locations suggest the fires were intentionally set. Pasadena Fire Arson Investigator responded to each of the scenes and the investigation is ongoing.

October 17, 2021 at 6:01pm: Pasadena Officers responded the area of Allen Ave. and Corson St. to reports of a suspect striking the victim (transient) with a hammer. The suspect fled in a vehicle and was not located at that time. Approximately one hour later, a Pasadena Officer was responding to a fire call in the area of Walnut St. and El Molino Ave. when he recognized the suspect vehicle. The suspect attempted to run from the officer but was quickly detained without incident. A hammer was located in the suspect vehicle and multiple knives were removed from his person. The victim was treated at a local hospital for their injuries and is expected to make a full recovery. Through their investigation, Detectives learned this suspect was also responsible for the recent rash of numerous arsons.

October 17, 2021 at 9:34pm: Pasadena Officers responded to a Pasadena Nursing Facility on the 1500 block of N. Fair Oaks Ave after reports of a subject yelling at employees. When the officers arrived, the suspect was found asleep in his vehicle. Upon making contact, officers saw the sleeping suspect possessed a handgun. Officers organized an approach and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. A loaded, unregistered firearm, additional loaded magazines, and large amounts of narcotics were recovered.

October 19, 2021 at 11:04am: Pasadena Police Officers responded to an armed robbery in the 100 block of S. San Gabriel Ave. The victim told officers he was walking the sidewalk of San Gabriel Ave. when he saw the suspect vehicle driving south. The suspect vehicle then made a U-turn and parked adjacent to him. The driver immediately exited his vehicle and approached the victim. The suspect produced a handgun and demanded the victim's property. The victim complied and the suspect drove away north on San Gabriel Ave. and out of sight.

October 22, 2021 at 9:10pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of Maple St. and Mar Vista Ave. regarding several calls of shots fired in the area. Upon arrival, Officers located numerous expended shell casings in the roadway. At this time, there is no suspect or victim information.

October 9, 2021 at 5:12am: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the 400 block of N. Lake Ave. regarding a trespass call at a local business involving a transient. Upon arrival, officers encountered the suspect who was immediately confrontational. After attempting to calm the suspect down using de-escalation techniques, the suspect took a fighting stance and challenged the officers to fight. Officers wrestled the suspect to the ground and he was safely taken into custody. Narcotic paraphernalia was recovered from the suspect. One officer received minor injuries because of the physical altercation while the suspect was not injured.

October 23, 2021 at 4:23pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to 2800 block of New York Dr. in regards to a shots fired call. Witnesses said they saw a vehicle park near the horse stables in the area and shortly after, a gunshot was heard. Officers canvassed the area and found one bullet casing near the stables' driveway. There were no victims located.

October 23, 2021 at 8:52pm: Pasadena Police Officers conducted a traffic stop in the area of Hammond St. and Raymond Ave. after observing a traffic violation. They contacted the driver who willingly admitted to not being a licensed driver. Officers asked the driver to exit the vehicle at which time the officers could see he was in possession of a firearm in his waistband. The driver was detained and officers safely recovered the loaded firearm, which was subsequently discovered to be a stolen gun. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena City Jail.

October 24, 2021 at 1:19pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to a business in the 3400 block of Foothill Bl. regarding an armed robbery. The victim was alone in the store when the suspect entered and revealed he was in possession of a firearm. He demanded money and fled once the employee gave the suspect the money. The victim was not injured.

October 24, 2021 at 9:16pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to a City Park located in the 700 block of E. Washington Bl. in regards to an attempted armed robbery. The victim was struck multiple times with a glass bottle as the suspect attempted to forcibly take the victim's bicycle. The victim was able to call 9-1-1 and when officers arrived, they located the suspect who was still in the immediate area of the park. Officer arrested the suspect and the victim received medical treatment at the scene.

October 25, 2021 at 10:45am: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of Fair Oaks Ave. and Washington Blvd. regarding a shooting. They quickly located a crime scene in the parking lot of the nearby apartment complex. Officers found evidence of a shooting and discovered that two unoccupied vehicles had been struck by gunfire. No victims were identified.

October 25, 2021 at 9:50pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to multiple calls of shots heard in the area of the 1000 block of N. Raymond Ave. Shortly after, two gunshot victims arrived at a local hospital. Both victims were in critical condition. Officers located evidence of a shooting in the 1000 block of N. Summit Ave. One victim succumbed to his injuries days later while the other victim is expected to survive. Detectives are investigating the case.

October 26, 2021 at 11:53am: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of Daisy Ave. and Nina St. regarding an assault. The victim exited a building to see a rival gang member across the street with a handgun. The suspect pointed the gun at the victim and a fight ensued. The altercation resulted in the victim being pistol-whipped by the suspect and his injuries required medical treatment at a local hospital. The victim is expected to survive and the investigation is ongoing.

October 26, 2021 at 5:32pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of Hammond St. and Morton Ave. seconds after a shooting occurred in the local park. As officers approached, they observed numerous people running in different directions. Officers discovered a shooting scene where only parked vehicles appeared to have been struck by gunfire. During the investigation, a local hospital alerted the police department of a gunshot victim whom had been dropped off at the emergency room. The victim in stable condition and the investigation is ongoing.

October 27, 2021 at 7:50pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of Marengo Ave. and Washington Blvd. regarding a shooting between two vehicles which resulted in a collision. Officers arrived and located an unoccupied vehicle that had collided into parked vehicles. About one block west of the collision scene, officers located evidence of a shooting. The victim of the shooting was found at a nearby fire station with what appeared to be a gunshot wound. He was transported to local hospital and his injuries are minor. This investigation is on going.

October 31, 2021 at 6:55am: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the 800 block of N. Oakland Ave. in regards to an armed robbery of a Lyft driver. The driver had stopped at the location to pick up a customer and was approached by the suspect, who was in a different vehicle. The suspect demanded the Lyft driver's wallet but the victim refused and attempted to flee in his vehicle. While attempting to escape, the victim heard one gunshot which shattered his car's window. The victim was not injured. Evidence of the shooting was located and the investigation is ongoing.

October 31, 2021 at 8:15pm: Pasadena Police Officers responded to the area of Hammond St. and Raymond Ave. regarding a shooting. The victim reported a road rage incident, which occurred after attempting to pass the suspect's vehicle. The suspect vehicle then went around the victim's vehicle on the wrong side of the road and a rear passenger fired two rounds from a handgun, striking the victim's vehicle. The victim sustained only minor injuries when a bullet struck the front windshield, sending glass shrapnel in the direction of the seated victim. The investigation is ongoing.

Agenda Item #5: Review the revised language for the Mills Place Plaque in order to fulfill the work plan objective #1 action item to render a recommendation regarding the Mills Place Plaque

This plaque is dedicated to the resilience and perseverance of Chinese settlers who, like so many before them, bestowed dignity and grace upon American soil.

In the mid-19th century, Asian Americans performed grueling labor to construct one of the nation's greatest transportation and engineering accomplishments—the Overland Railroad. After its completion, these settlers journeyed throughout California, giving way to generations of Chinese Americans who worked as business owners, ranch hands, cooks, fruit pickers, and more. It was through this voyage of profoundly admirable work that several Chinese-owned businesses were established in Pasadena. However, as a result of xenophobia and prejudice, this small working-class community of businesses would thereafter be set ablaze.

On November 6, 1885, a Chinese wash house at this site was burned by a violent mob. History has documented that the mob forced roughly 60-100 Chinese Americans to decide between fleeing Pasadena, or being lynched. Not long thereafter, a resolution was passed by white Pasadenans barring those of Chinese descent from living in the predominant parts of Pasadena, therefore forcing these settlers into segregated enclaves. For decades to come, this event would serve as an enkindling of systemic discrimination, labor inequity, and redlining, therefore forcing these settlers, through unparalleled endurance, to rebuild on the fringes of society.

This plaque acknowledges the solemn denial of freedom and equity these settlers faced, and recognizes their sacrifice in making Pasadena the thriving multicultural and multiracial, city it now is. From the ashes of intolerance, this tribute honors their fortitude, accomplishments, entrepreneurship, and contributions to innovation in the city of Pasadena.

**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
- 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 requesting that she be included in future District 4 meetings.
 - Commissioner Gonzalez attended Councilmember Kennedy's community meeting on Wednesday, September 22, 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.

November 2021:

- The Commission unanimously approved a Resolution to be sent to the 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.
- Staff (Taylor) shared the draft revised language for the Mills Place Plaque that will be agendaized for the December meeting.
- Chair Lamar requested the Commission send feedback to staff (Taylor) about the revised plaque language with a deadline of Friday, November 19.
- Update from Commissioners attending City Council District meetings and communicating with their Councilmember:
 - Chair Lamar spoke to Mayor Victor Gordo about the current work of the Commission when they attended the Community Meeting at Robinson Park on Thursday, October 28.
 - Vice-Chair Greenstein informed Councilmember Madison's District Liaison Takako Suzuki that the Commission will be reviewing the draft letter of support of the PEPPEG initiative to expand voting rights to all parents of PUSD children, and the Vice-Chair also spoke to Councilmember Wilson about the Commission's District 7 vacancy.
 - Commissioner Robertson emailed an update to Councilmember Hampton after the Commission meeting in October and shared that the Councilmember distributed a Halloween newsletter pertaining to safety that included a message about the recent gun violence.
 - Commissioner Keushkerian met with Councilmember Masuda to discuss the work of the Commission and ongoing issues in District 4, and will also be attending the District 4 meeting on Tuesday, November 16.
 - Commissioner Gonzalez attended the Emergency Community Meeting at Robinson Park on Thursday, October 28 to discuss the recent gun violence.

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.

November 2021:

- The Commission unanimously approved collaborating with the Martin Luther King Community Coalition on their Annual Essay and Art Contest in 2022.
- Commissioner Robertson will contact the Martin Luther King Community Coalition to discuss next steps and the timeline for the Commission to support their Annual Essay and Art Contest.

- Chair Lamar asked staff to provide information about the scholarship money that was previously donated by the Pasadena After Hours Rotary Club.

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.”

November 2021:

- Commissioner Young is scheduled to meet with a representative from the Western Justice Center on Friday, November 5 to confirm their presentation at the Commission meeting in December to discuss the programs they offer.
- Commissioner Young is working with ROSE program intern (Sterling) to identify additional collaborations with local community-based organizations in order to understand their priorities, and will contact Danny Parker (We Must Breathe Advisory Committee) to discuss best practices for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Human Relations Commission
Presentation Calendar FY 2021-2022
(updated 11/16/21)

To be scheduled:

- Cultural Signage Project for 10 W. Walnut (Parsons Project) – Mark Workman, LPC West (November or December 2021)
- Presentation from the Western Justice Center about their mission and purpose

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: No presentation scheduled

December 2021: No presentation scheduled

January 2022:

- TBD

February 2022:

- TBD

March 2022:

- TBD

April 2022:

- TBD

May 2022:

- TBD

June 2022: Annual Meeting