



**Regular Meeting
Human Relations Commission
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

Members

Brandon Lamar, Chair, Mayor
Sandy Greenstein, Vice-Chair, District 6
Wilhelmina Robertson, District 1
Jonathan Horton, 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
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/82618222556>

OR

Phone: 1 (669) 900-6833 – Webinar ID: 826 1822 2556

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, January 4, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

1. Call to order

- Welcome to new Commissioner Jonathan Horton (District 2)

2. Roll call

3. Public comments for items not on the agenda

4. Approval of minutes

- December 7, 2021*

5. New business

Information Items

- Review Pasadena Police Department Community Brief for November 2021
- Discuss advocating for victims of hate crimes through providing resource information and education

Action Item

- Discuss supporting the Martin Luther King Community Coalition's Rekindling the Light of Peace event in January 2022

6. Old business

Information Item

- Discuss opportunities to collaborate with the We Must Breathe Advisory Committee*

Action Items

- Select a Commissioner to represent the Human Relations Commission at City Council meetings in February 2022 to provide public comment on matters of interest to the Commission
- Discuss the Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony

- Discuss collaborative efforts regarding the Martin Luther King Community Coalition's Annual Essay and Art Contest
- Commission work plan updates and discussion*

7. Reports/comments from the Chair

8. Comments from Commissioners

9. Staff comments

10. Upcoming meeting agenda items

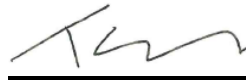
11. Adjournment

*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 30th 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, December 7, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: LaWayne Williams, Lola Osborne, Tamer Sabha

1. Call to Order

Chair Lamar called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 November 2, 2021 regular meeting. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

5. New business

• Discussion regarding rescheduling the January 4, 2022 Commission meeting

After discussion, it was moved (Robertson) and seconded (Young) to maintain the January 4, 2022 regular meeting as scheduled. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

- **Discussion to consider receiving monthly Community Brief incident reports from the Pasadena Police Department**

After discussion, it was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Keushkerian) to receive monthly Community Brief incident reports from the Pasadena Police Department. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

- **Review and approve the new language for the Mills Place Plaques, regarding inaccuracies pertaining to a Chinese business and settlers in Pasadena**

The Commission reviewed and discussed the new language for the Mills Place Plaques. The Commission will review the updated language that will be provided by Vice-Chair Greenstein at the next meeting in January 2022.

Public Comment:

Susie Ling provided a live public comment with suggestions on how to improve the language for the Mills Place Plaques and advocated for the new plaques to be installed on Colorado Boulevard or Fair Oaks Avenue.

- **Chair to appoint a Commissioner to represent the Human Relations Commission at City Council meetings to provide public comment on matters of interest**

After discussion, it was moved (Robertson) and seconded (Keushkerian) to approve Vice-Chair Greenstein representing the Human Relations Commission at City Council meetings in January 2022 to provide a public comment on matters of interest. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

- **Discuss the Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony**

The Commission discussed the Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony and ideas for honoring awardees that did not receive the award in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission will further discuss the awards ceremony at the next meeting in January 2022.

6. Old business

- **Discuss collaborative efforts regarding the Martin Luther King Community Coalition's Annual Essay and Art Contest**

The Commission discussed collaborating with the Martin Luther King Community Coalition on their Annual Essay and Art Contest. Commissioners Robertson, Greenstein, Gonzalez, and Keushkerian (alternate) volunteered to join the Judging Committee.

- **Commission work plan updates and discussion**

After discussion, it was moved (Robertson) and seconded (Greenstein) to move the action item in work plan objective #1, relating to the Human Relations Commission Community Survey, to work plan objective #2 and change the language to read “focus group” instead of “survey”. (Motion unanimously carried)

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

After discussion, it was moved (Robertson) and seconded (Keushkerian) 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:

- Thanked staff for including the Pasadena Police Department Community Brief for October 2021 in the meeting agenda packet; and
- Asked that staff send the Commission a copy of their rules and regulations.

8. Comments from Commissioners

Vice-Chair Greenstein provided the following comments:

- Requested staff resend a website link shared about “Guidelines for Effective Human Relations Commissions” (U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service); and
- Asked about the AB 1234 Ethics Training course facilitated by the City Attorney.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked staff about the timeline for Commissioners to receive their name badges.

Staff (Osborne) commented that staff is working to find a local vendor to create name badges for all Commissions staffed by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

9. Staff Comments

Staff (Williams) provided the following comments:

- The City is in the process of filling the vacant Program Coordinator position who will staff the Human Relations Commission;
- The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCS) is preparing for holiday toy giveaway events; and
- PRCS is in the process of rolling out the new slate of senior programs that will begin in January 2022.

Staff (Osborne) commented that staff will be meeting with Interim City Manager Cynthia Kurtz to discuss Commissions and asked Commissioners to send any feedback they would like to be shared.

10. Upcoming meeting agenda items

- Discuss advocating for victims of hate crimes
- Review and approval of the updated language for the Mills Place Plaques
- Continued discussion of the Human Relations Annual Awards Ceremony
- Discussion about the Rekindling the Light of Peace event
- Select a Commissioner to represent the Human Relations Commission at City Council meetings in February 2022 to provide public comment on matters of interest to the Commission

11. Adjournment

It was moved (Greenstein) and seconded (Robertson) to adjourn the regular meeting. (Motion unanimously carried) The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Agenda Item #6: Discuss opportunities to collaborate with the We Must Breathe
Advisory Committee**

We Must Breathe Advisory Committee 2020 Report

Full Report can be found at: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/district3/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/We-Must-Breathe-Report-Update.pdf>

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.
- 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. **(Completed November 2021)**
 - 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.

December 2021

- The Commission reviewed the new language for the Mills Place Plaques and Vice-Chair Greenstein volunteered to update the language for the Commission's review and approval at the next meeting in January 2022.

- The Commission unanimously voted to approve Vice-Chair Greenstein representing the Commission at a City Council meeting in January 2022 to provide a public comment on matters of interest.
- Commissioner Young shared an update that the ROSE program intern (Sterling) is working to gather completed surveys about social media usage and engagement from City Councilmembers.
- Update from Commissioners attending City Council District meetings and communicating with their Councilmember:
 - Chair Lamar attended the Mayor's appointed Commissioners meeting before the Mayor's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 3.
 - Vice-Chair Greenstein spoke to Councilmember Williams about the District 2 vacancy and was informed that the seat should be filled by the next meeting in January.
 - Commissioner Robertson provided an email update to Councilmember Hampton after the last meeting to share what the Commission is working on.
 - Commissioner Gonzalez provided an email update to Councilmember Kennedy after the last meeting to inform him about the Commission's support of the PEPPEG initiative.
 - Commissioner Young provided an email update to Councilmember Rivas after the last meeting summarizing what the Commission is working on.

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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

Action Items:

- Support programs that highlight the principles of Martin Luther King Jr.
- Collaborate with the Martin Luther King Community Coalition on their Annual Essay and Art Contest
- Sponsor a Multimedia High School Contest.
- Sponsor Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Ceremony.
- Investigate alternatives to in-person forums, panels, and programs.
- Design, solicit, and evaluate a Human Relations Commission Community Focus Group

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.

December 2021

- The Commission discussed collaborating with the Martin Luther King Community Coalition on their Annual Essay and Art Contest with Commissioners Robertson, Greenstein, Gonzalez, and Keushkerian (alternate) volunteering to join the contest Judging Committee.
- The Commission discussed honoring the awardees for the 2020 Human Relations Commission Annual Awards that did not receive the award in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Commission unanimously voted to move the action item related to the Human Relations Commission Community Survey to objective #2 (Collaborations) and updating the language to read “focus group” instead of “survey”.
- Commissioner Shirmohammadi spoke to former Chair Nat Nehdar, who requested the Commission’s involvement and presence at the Rekindling the Light of Peace event .
- Chair Lamar spoke to former Chair Nat Nehdar and advised that the Commission is not in a position at this moment to lead the Rekindling the Light of Peace event, but will be able to support the event.

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

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.

December 2021

- Commissioner Young spoke to Danny Parker (We Must Breathe Advisory Committee) about a possible future collaboration and encouraged Commissioners to read a section of the Committee's report regarding the Business Committee for Racial Equity Objective.

Human Relations Commission
Presentation Calendar FY 2021-2022
(updated 12/09/21)

To be scheduled:

- Cultural Signage Project for 10 W. Walnut (Parsons Project) – Mark Workman, LPC West
- Presentation from the Western Justice Center about their mission and purpose
- Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations about the LA vs Hate program

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: No presentation scheduled

February 2022:

- TBD

March 2022:

- TBD

April 2022:

- TBD

May 2022:

- TBD

June 2022: Annual Meeting