



**Regular Meeting
Human Relations Commission
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
6:30 P.M.
Jackie Robinson Community Center
1020 North Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103**

Members

Sandy Greenstein, Chair, District 6
Jonathan Horton, Vice Chair, District 2
Wilhelmina Robertson, District 1
Rene H. Gonzalez, District 3
Kevork Keushkerian, District 4
Katie Young, District 5
Daniel Bay, District 7
Vacant, Mayor
Vacant, At-Large

Staff

Lola Osborne, Deputy Director
Jane Whitmore, Recording Secretary

Mission Statement

The City of Pasadena is dedicated to delivering exemplary municipal services, responsive to our entire community and consistent with our history, culture, and unique character.

Meeting Information

Human Relations Commission regular meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

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 jwhitmore@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 at(626) 744-7295 or jwhitmore@cityofpasadena.net. Habrá servicio de interpretación disponible para éstas juntas llamando (626) 744-7295.

Public meetings begin at 6:30 P.M. Items on the agenda may not be called in the order listed. Agendas and related documents are available on the City website at: www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/human-relations-commission and all branch libraries.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Human Relations Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the reception counter at the Jackie Robinson Community Center at 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave. and City Hall N255,100 N. Garfield Ave. during normal business hours.



**Agenda
Regular Meeting
Human Relations Commission
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
6:30 P.M.
Jackie Robinson Community Center
1020 North Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Land Acknowledgement from the Chair**
- 3. Roll call**
- 4. Approval of minutes**
 - March 13, 2024*
- 5. Public Comment for items not on the agenda**
- 6. Update from the Pasadena Police Department regarding hate crimes and incidents in Pasadena – Lieutenant Carlo Montiglio**
- 7. New business**
 - Information items**
 - Presentation regarding discrimination of Asian-Americans in Pasadena – Kaz Doi*
 - Presentation from the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center: Safety and Wellbeing of San Gabriel LGBTQ+ Community – Camila Camaleón, President, Board of Directors
 - Action items**
 - Discussion regarding plans to recognize Sheldon Epps for his accomplishments at the Pasadena Playhouse Theater
 - Discussion regarding presentation from Hahn and Hahn Law Firm regarding their efforts to work with local groups adversely impacted by a decades-old hate campaign aimed at preventing people of color from buying property in Pasadena

8. Old business

Action item

- Discussion and approval of the Work Plan and Presentation Calendar updates for February, March and April 2024*

9. Reports/comments from the Chair

10. Comments from Commissioners

11. Staff Comments

12. Upcoming meeting agenda items

13. Adjournment

*Attachments



Sandy Greenstein, Chair
Human Relations Commission

Note to Public: An opportunity for public comment will be provided at the time the above items are discussed. In order to facilitate public participation at meetings, the Commission will accept public comment in the following manner:

1. In-person public comments during the meeting:

Prior to or during the meeting, members of the public may provide public comment by submitting a speaker card prior to the start of public comment on that item to the recording secretary.

2. Advance correspondence, to become part of the record:

Members of the public may submit written correspondence of any length prior to the start of the meeting, at the following email address: jwhitmore@cityofpasadena.net. Correspondence will be forwarded to the Human Relations Commission prior to the meeting if received at least 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. Any correspondence received later will be forwarded to the Commission by email the next business day.

Posting statement: I hereby certify that this Agenda, in its entirety, was posted on the City Council Chamber bulletin board, Room S249, the bulletin board in the rotunda area at City Hall, 100 North Garfield Avenue, and Jackie Robinson Community Center, 1020 North Fair Oaks Avenue, and a copy was distributed to the branch libraries for posting on or before the 29th day of March 2024, by 5:30 P.M.; and that copies were emailed not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting, to each member of the Human Relations Commission, to each local newspaper of general circulation, radio, or television station requesting notice in writing, all of which media recipients are identified on the distribution list below. The agenda may be viewed at the City's website at: www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/human-relations-commission.



Jane Whitmore, Recording Secretary
Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

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**Draft Minutes
Special Meeting
Human Relations Commission
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
2:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Daniel Bay, Rene Gonzalez (arrived at 2:09 P.M., left at 3:02 P.M.), Sandy Greenstein, Jonathan Horton, Wilhelmina Robertson, Katie Young

Commissioners Absent: Kevork Keushkerian (excused), Hamed Shirmohammadi (unexcused)

Staff Present: Lola Osborne, and Jane Whitmore

1. Call to order

Chair Greenstein called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M.

2. Roll call

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

3. Approval of minutes

After review, it was moved (Horton) and seconded (Young) to approve the minutes for the December 5, 2023, regular meeting. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Greenstein, Horton, Robertson, Young, Bay

Absent at the time of the motion: Gonzalez

Absent: Keushkerian, Shirmohammadi

After review, it was moved (Young) and seconded (Horton) to approve the minutes for the January 9, 2024, special meeting. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Greenstein, Horton, Robertson, Young, Bay

Absent at the time of the motion: Gonzalez

Absent: Keushkerian, Shirmohammadi

4. Update from the Pasadena Police Department regarding hate crimes and incidents in Pasadena. – Lieutenant Carlo Montiglio

Lieutenant Montiglio provided an update on hate crimes and incidents in Pasadena. Questions from the Commission followed the update.

5. New business

- **Discuss draft language for the potential City of Pasadena Anti-Discrimination Policy and provide feedback to the Legislative Policy Committee - Brenda Harvey-Williams, Assistant City Manager**

The Commission received a presentation from Brenda Harvey-Williams regarding the proposed City of Pasadena anti-discrimination policy. The Comments and feedback from the Commission followed the presentation.

After discussion, it was moved (Horton) and seconded (Gonzalez) to submit all stated suggestions from the Commission to the City Manager's Office, as discussed. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Greenstein, Horton, Robertson, Gonzalez, Young, Bay
Absent: Keushkerian, Shirmohammadi

- **Presentation from the Design and Historic Preservation Section regarding Historic Places Pasadena project – Kevin Johnson, Principal Planner, Planning and Community Development Department**

The Commission received a presentation from Kevin Johnson regarding the Historic Places Pasadena project. Questions from the Commission followed the presentation.

- **Discussion regarding Celebration of Excellence nomination of Sheldon Epps**

After discussion, it was moved (Robertson) and seconded (Horton) to approve the Human Relations Commission recognizing Sheldon Epps for his accomplishments in diversity at the Pasadena Playhouse, as discussed. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Greenstein, Horton, Robertson, Young, Bay
Absent at the time of the motion: Gonzalez
Absent: Keushkerian, Shirmohammadi

6. Old business

- **Discussion and approval of the Work Plan and Presentation Calendar updates for March 2024**

Chair Greenstein requested the discussion and approval of the Work Plan be continued to the next regular meeting scheduled for April 2, 2024.

After discussion, it was moved (Young) and seconded (Bay) to approve the Presentation Calendar updates for March 2024, as discussed. (Motion unanimously carried)

In Favor: Greenstein, Horton, Robertson, Young, Bay
Absent at the time of the motion: Gonzalez
Absent: Keushkerian, Shirmohammadi

7. Reports/Comments from the Chair

None

8. Comments from Commissioners

None

9. Staff comments

Staff (Osborne) invited the Commission to the 93rd Birthday Celebration and Fundraiser for the Pasadena Public Library's La Pintoresca Branch, on Sunday, March 17, 2024 from 1:30 – 4:00 P.M. A flyer with additional information about the event was provided to the Commission.

10. Upcoming meeting agenda items

- Presentation from the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center.
- Presentation from Kaz Doi regarding discrimination of Asian-Americans in Pasadena.
- Discussion regarding plans to recognize Sheldon Epps for his accomplishments at the Pasadena Playhouse Theate.

11. Adjournment

It was moved (Bay) and seconded (Young) to adjourn the special meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 P.M.



City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission Work Plan: 07/25/2023 – 06/11/2024

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 2023-2024 Ad Hoc Committees:

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #1 – Advise and Engage City Council

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #2 – Inform and Engage the Public

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #3 – Collaborations

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #4 – Improve the Effectiveness of the Human Relations Commission

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #1 – Advise and Engage City Council

Objective Purpose: Advise and engage City Council on Human Relations issues of public, local, and national concern with regular updates to aid the City in achieving better human relations in City government and among the diverse Pasadena community.

Commissioners: Greenstein (lead), Robertson

Action Items:

- Inform City Council on Human Relations issues of public, local, and national concern (both current and historic) in order to report discussion outcomes during Commission meetings.
- Completed: In conjunction with the Human Relations Commission existing United Against Hate Week efforts, partner with the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and Library Information Services to request a proclamation from the City of Pasadena supporting Bullying Prevention Month in October 2023.

Work Plan Updates:

July 2023:

- The ad hoc committee recommended the following action item include the dates for United Against Hate Week:
 - Request proclamation from the City of Pasadena supporting United Against Hate Week.
- The ad hoc committee requested Staff (Osborne) request the proclamation supporting United Against Hate Week be presented at the City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, October 16. Commissioner Robertson agreed to create the draft proclamation for review by the Commission at the September meeting.
- The Commission received information on how to engage and improve communication with the City Council during the presentation from Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission.

August 2023:

- The ad hoc committee recommended a revision to the following action item:
 - Request a proclamation from the City of Pasadena supporting United Against Hate Week scheduled for November 12 - 18, 2023.
- The revised action item is as follows:
 - In conjunction with the Human Relations Commission existing United Against Hate Week efforts, partner with the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and Library Information Services to request a proclamation from the City of Pasadena supporting Bullying Prevention Month in October 2023.

- Staff (Osborne) shared a copy of City Council Resolution No 9831 condemning hate and xenophobic violence against all persons that was approved March 22, 2021, to assist the ad hoc committee in creating the proclamation in support of Bullying Prevention Month.

September 2023:

- Chair Greenstein reported she contacted Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission (LACHRC) to discuss she and Vice Chair Horton being guest members of the Transformative Justice Committee of the LACHRC) and requested information regarding meeting dates and locations.
- Chair Greenstein reported she sent a draft of the proclamation to support Bullying Prevention Month to Staff (Osborne) for review.
- Staff (Osborne) reported she sent the draft proclamation to the staff at Day One, La Pintesca Teen Education Center and the Pasadena Public Library, that partner with the City to support Bullying Prevention Month, for input and will provide an update to the Commission at the October 3 meeting regarding the status of the proclamation.
- Chair Greenstein will represent the Commission at the City Council meeting in October to accept the proclamation in support of Bullying Prevention Month.
- Update from Commissioners attending City Council District meetings and communicating with their Councilmember:
 - Commissioner Robertson spoke with Councilmember Hampton to provide an update about the work of the Commission and discussed the recent incident that occurred in District 1 involving a dispute between neighbors.
 - Vice-Chair Greenstein will attend the meeting for District 6 Commissioners on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

October 2023:

- Staff (Osborne) reported the Bullying Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation will be presented at the City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, October 16 at 5:30 P.M. and Chair Greenstein will represent the Commission during the presentation.
- Update from Commissioners attending City Council District meetings and communicating with their Councilmember:
 - Commissioner Gonzalez spoke to Councilmember Justin Jones about sustainable energy and recommended the Commission receive a presentation from Pasadena Water and Power regarding the rebates and incentives being offered for electric vehicles to share the information with the community.
 - Chair Greenstein reported she spoke to Councilmember Jason Lyons regarding the status of the City Council's request for staff to draft a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance in Pasadena and hold discussions about the draft with the Human Relations Commission.

- Chair Greenstein reported she attended Councilmember Steve Madison's Advisory Council meeting and Saturday, September 9 and spoke about the work of the Commission.

November 2023:

- Chair Greenstein attended the City Council meeting on Monday, October 16 and represented the Commission in speaking about recognizing October as Bullying Prevention Month.
- The ad hoc committee deemed the following action item completed for FY2023-2024:
 - In conjunction with the Human Relations Commission existing United Against Hate Week efforts, partner with the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and Library Information Services to request a proclamation from the City of Pasadena supporting Bullying Prevention Month in October 2023.

December 2023:

- Commissioner Young reported Councilmember Jessica Rivas attended the *Pasadena United Against Hate: Allyship is Action!* event held on Thursday, November 16.
- Commissioner Young will be attending the District 5 Commissioner Brunch on Saturday, December 9.
- Staff (Osborne) reported the Legislative Policy Committee has requested input from the Commission regarding the language of the proposed Anti-Discrimination Policy. She stated this item will be added to the agenda for the meeting scheduled for January 9, 2024.

January 2024:

- No update

February 2024:

- Meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum

March 2024:

- Review continued to the April meeting

Status:

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #2 – Inform and Engage the Public

Objective Purpose: Provide public forums, panels, and programs to promote good will and better relations in our community.

Commissioners: Young (lead), Gonzalez, Greenstein

Action Items:

- Partner with a local agency or organization that spotlights trailblazers in human relations within the City of Pasadena.
- Completed - Plan and host an event as part of United Against Hate Week to raise awareness about the dangers of hate and the need for civil discourse among City residents.
- Co-host an event to educate the public about the events at Mills Place to commemorate the installation of the updated plaques.
- Work to identify events in Pasadena's history that have shaped and impacted Human Relations today in order to:
 - Properly acknowledge their influence
 - Educate the public
 - Enrich future generations with our City's cultural and historic values

Work Plan Updates:

July 2023:

- The ad hoc committee recommended a revision to the following action item:
 - Co-host a showcase that spotlights trailblazers in human relations within the City of Pasadena.
- The revised action item is as follows
 - Partner with a local agency or organization that spotlights trailblazers in human relations within the City of Pasadena.
- Commissioner Robertson agreed to contact Caltech and Pasadena City College to schedule presentations for the Commission regarding their programs to recognize individuals, staff and organizations supporting equity and diversity.
- The ad hoc committee recommended the Commission nominate a local human relations project or program for the John Anson Ford Human Relations Award presented by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission.
- Staff (Osborne) informed the Commission that the City is in the process of identifying a contractor that can create and install the Mills Place plaque and will inform the Commission once the process is completed.

August 2023:

- The Commission approved the selection of the California Institute of Technology's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program as their nominee for the John Anson Ford Human Relations Award presented by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission.

- Staff (Osborne) reported the City received proposals from two vendors to create and install the Mills Place plaques and she will provide an update on the selection at the Commission meeting scheduled for September 5, 2023.

September 2023:

- Commissioner Young reported the ad hoc committee is working with Elissa Barrett to plan the United Against Hate Week event and requested the Commission create questions for the panel that will be scheduled for the event.

October 2023:

- Commissioner Young provided the following update regarding the United Against Hate Week event:
 - The event title is *Pasadena United Against Hate: Allyship is Action!*
 - The event will be held at The Maxwell House on one of the following dates: November 14, 15 or 16 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
 - Linda Bustamante, Program Manager with 211 LA County has been confirmed as a presenter
 - The event will also include bystander/allyship training and local organizations are being contacted to provide the training.
 - Marketing information including a flyer, press release etc. will be sent to Staff (Osborne) for approval and forwarded to the Lisa Derderian Public Information Officer.
 - Information about the event will be posted on the City of Pasadena Event calendar, United Against Hate Week website, Eventbrite and Mobilize.
 - United Against Hate Week will provide Pasadena Stands United Against Hate material for distribution in the community, if approved by the City.
- The Commission discussed the event details and decided the ad hoc committee will attend the event to represent the Commission.
- Chair Greenstein reported she spoke with Gayle Reysa, Executive Director at Hahn and Hahn about identifying a representative from the firm to make a presentation to the Commission regarding their efforts to work with local groups adversely impacted by a decades-old hate campaign aimed at preventing people of color from buying property in Pasadena.
- Staff (Osborne) reported she spoke to Miguel Márquez, City Manager regarding the status of the City Council's request for staff to draft a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance in Pasadena and stated the drafts are expected to be sent to the Legislative Policy Committee in November.
- Staff (Osborne) provided an update on the Mills Place plaque and will notify the Commission of the vendor's timeline for completion when it becomes available to allow the Commission time to plan an event to commemorate the installation.

November 2023:

- The Commission approved the sponsorship of the *Pasadena United Against Hate: Allyship is Action!* event scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023.
- Commissioner Young provided details about the event and will email the flyer to the Commission for distribution to their networks.
- Commissioner Robertson provided information about “Telling the Whole Story: The Land We Are On”, a report by All Saints Episcopal Church that discusses the history of the ownership of the land in Pasadena and recommended the Commission discuss the report at the meeting on December 5.
- Staff (Osborne) reported the vendor for the Mills Place plaque has received the language for the inscription and a sample copy of the plaque will be sent to the Commission.

December 2023:

- Commissioner Young reported on the *Pasadena United Against Hate: Allyship is Action!* event held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, and stated there were 35 individuals in attendance including commissioners from other City of Pasadena commissions.
- The ad hoc committee will follow up to provide Lisa Derderian, Public Information Officer, with information about the training provided at the event to post on social media.
- The ad hoc committee deemed the following action item completed:
 - Plan and host an event as part of United Against Hate Week to raise awareness about the dangers of hate and the need for civil discourse among City residents.
- The Commission approved presenting a certificate of recognition to All Saints Episcopal Church for their report on the history of the church land.
- The Commission discussed plans for the program to educate the public about the events at Mills Place to commemorate the installation of the updated plaques, scheduled for January 9, 2024. Chair Greenstein will represent the Commission during the presentation.
- Staff (Osborne) requested the Commission email Staff (Whitmore) as soon as possible with the names and contact information for individuals or organizations they would like to invite to the event.

January 2024

- The Commission co-hosted a presentation during the special meeting on Tuesday, January 9 to recognize two newly installed plaques that provide a historical background of the events that led to the fire of 1885 at Yuen Kee’s Laundry and the impact to Chinese residents in the community.
- The special meeting on Tuesday, January 9 was held adjacent to 33 West Green Street, the site of the first plaque and attendees heard remarks from City representatives, and historical stakeholders. At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees visited the second plaque adjacent to 33 South Fair Oaks Avenue, which is near the original façade of the laundry building.

February 2024:

- Meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum

March 2024:

- Review continued to the April meeting

Status:

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #3 – Collaborations

Objective Purpose: Identify and bring attention to collaborations in the City of Pasadena to provide assistance to community leaders and groups and/or promote goodwill and better relations.

Commissioners: Horton (lead), Gonzalez, Greenstein

Action Items:

- Invite speakers to populate the Presentation Calendar for FY 2023-2024.
- Continue and expand the Commission's collaboration with Western Justice Center.
- Collaborate with local organizations in addressing mis- and disinformation in order to advise the City on best practices. Collaborations will focus on issues such as, but not limited to:
 - LGBTQIA+ rights
 - Local, state, and national elections.
- Collaborate with local leaders and organizations to identify and bring attention to human relations issues and initiatives affecting youth including but not limited to:
 - The safety and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ youth.
- Recognize local leaders and organizations that bring attention to human relations issues to the Commission.

Work Plan Updates:

July 2023:

- The Commission received a presentation from Robin Toma (Executive Director, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission) regarding the LA vs Hate program and the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission Strategic Priorities for 2023-2024.
- Commissioner Robertson agreed to contact Caltech and Pasadena City College to schedule a presentation for the Commission regarding their programs to recognize individuals, staff and organizations supporting equity and diversity.
- Commissioner Young agreed to contact the Human Services Commission to discuss collaboration regarding their work addressing issues affecting LGBTQIA+ youth. Staff (Osborne) will provide the contact information for the lead Commissioner of the ad hoc committee for the Commission objective.

August 2023:

- Commissioner Robertson reported she confirmed the availability of Dr. Tashiana Bryant-Myrick, Director of Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity, to make a presentation to the Commission at the regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

- Commissioner Horton reported the Human Services Commission is addressing issues related to LGBTQIA+ youth as part of their work plan for FY 2023-2024. The ad hoc will follow up to determine the feasibility of collaborating with the Commission to avoid a duplication of efforts.
- Commissioner Robertson reported that she, Commissioner Keushkerian and Commissioner Gonzalez assisted at the commission table at Assemblymember Chris Holden's Annual Community Resource Fair and Block Party on Saturday, August 5, and shared information about the work of the Commission with the community.

September 2023:

- Vice Chair Horton reported he met with Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, to discuss the City's plans to encourage voter registration on National Voter Registration Day and Mr. Jomsky suggested the Commission could assist at Voter Registration tables at different locations in Pasadena.
- The Commission approved participating in voter registration activities in September 2023 by assisting at voter registration tables on Tuesday, September 19 at Pasadena City College, and Pasadena Public Library branches. Vice Chair Horton will follow up to confirm the schedule for volunteering and contact the Commission to verify their availability.
- Vice Chair Horton reported he confirmed the Los Angeles County Registrar is available to present at the Commission meeting in January regarding the new voting laws.
- Chair Greenstein reported she contacted Gregory Mann with the California Civil Right Department to discuss a presentation to the Commission regarding the services provided by the Community Conflict Resolution Unit (CCRU).
- The ad hoc committee recommended the removal of the presentation from 211 LA regarding the hate incident reporting systems.

October 2023:

- Vice Chair Horton thanked the Commissioners that volunteered to assist at the Voter Registration tables on September 19 and the Commissioners shared their experiences assisting at the tables.
- Vice Chair Horton will work with the City to arrange for the Commission to assist with Voter Registration activities in January 2024 in advance of the primary elections in March 2024.
- Commissioner Young announced the Western Justice Center will collaborate with the Commission for the United Against Hate Week event.

November 2023:

- The Commission received the following presentations:
 - Presentation from Dr. Tashiana Bryant-Myrick regarding the Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity programs.
 - Presentation from Gregory Mann regarding the California Civil Rights Department Community Conflict Resolution Unit (CCRU).

- Presentation from the Carla Hegwood and Jan Gov regarding the Early Equity Kits for Children provided by the Pasadena Public Library.
- The ad hoc committee will research partnering with the Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity for their Celebration of Excellence event.
- The Commission approved participating in voter registration activities in January 2024. Commissioner Horton will follow up with the City Clerk to identify opportunities for Commission participation and provide an update at the meeting scheduled for December 5.

December 2023:

- The Commission received a presentation from Lisa Derderian (Public Information Officer) regarding the City’s response to incidents of misinformation and disinformation in the community
- Chair Greenstein provided an update from Vice Chair Horton regarding the presentation from the Los Angeles County Registrar scheduled for January 2024 and requested the presentation be scheduled for a later date.
- Commissioner Young reported she confirmed the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center has agreed to provide a speaker for a presentation to the Commission in the Spring of 2024 and the Commission tentatively scheduled the presentation for May 2024.
- Commissioner Bay reported he attended the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center “2023 State of Queer and Transgender Pride in the SGV” event on Thursday, November 16 and provided information shared by the youth during a panel presentation at the event regarding the safety and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ youth.
- The ad hoc committee recommended adding the following action item for the objective:
- Recognize local leaders and organizations that bring attention to human relations issues to the Commission.

January 2024:

- No update

February 2024:

- Meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum

March 2024:

- Review continued to the April meeting

Status:

Ad Hoc Committee re: Objective #4 – Improve the Effectiveness of the Human Relations Commission

Objective Purpose: To build the impact of Commission activities and our impact in our community through effective communication, follow-through, and accountability.

Commissioners: Robertson (lead), Greenstein

Action Items:

- Conduct regular follow up of ongoing Commission activities, such as, but not limited to: Mills Place plaque installation, removal of portraits and plaques identified as commemorating racist persons and policies from City buildings, and the City's adoption of the 211 LA hate incident reporting system.
- Keep informed of the activities of Human Relations Commissions in other government entities as well as other City of Pasadena commissions.

Work Plan Updates:

July 2023:

- The Commission received a presentation from Robin Toma (Executive Director) regarding the Strategic Priorities for FY 2023-2024 of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission.
- Commissioner Keushkerian reported he will attend the 74th Annual Conference for the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) being held August 13 – 17, 2023, in Bethesda, Maryland and will provide a report on the conference to the Commission at the September meeting.
- Staff (Osborne) reported she confirmed the Commission recommendation regarding the removal of portraits and plaques from City facilities if they recognize or honor historical organizers involved in campaigns for racial segregation and/or injustice against individuals or groups based on race, religion, national origin, sex, or cultural background will be discussed at a future City Council meeting. She will notify the Commission of the meeting date once she receives confirmation that the item is on the meeting agenda.

August 2023:

- Staff (Osborne) reported the City received proposals from two vendors to create and install the Mills Place plaques and she will provide an update on the selection at the Commission meeting scheduled for September 5, 2023.
- The Commission discussed the status of the Commission's recommendation to the City Council regarding the adoption of the 211 LA hate incident reporting system and agreed to submit questions to Staff (Osborne) to submit to the Pasadena Police Department for discussion during their presentation at the Commission meeting scheduled for September 5.

- Commissioner Robertson reported on an article that appeared in Pasadena Now on July 31, 2023, regarding Hahn and Hahn's efforts in starting a dialogue with local groups adversely impacted by a decades-old hate campaign aimed at preventing people of color from buying property in Pasadena and recommended the Commission schedule a presentation from a representative from Hahn and Hahn regarding the outcome of their efforts.

September 2023:

- Commissioner Robertson requested Staff (Osborne) to follow up with the Pasadena Police Department regarding the questions submitted by the Commission about the reporting of hate crimes and incidents in Pasadena to ensure the information will be provided at the Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 3.
- Staff (Osborne) provided an update on the Mills Place plaques and will provide an estimated date the plaques will be completed at the next scheduled Commission meeting.
- Staff (Osborne) provided an update on the Commission recommendation to the City Council regarding the adoption of the 211 LA hate incident reporting and stated the recommendation will be returned to the Commission to either be updated with a new date or the Commission can contact their Councilmember to advocate for action to be taken on the recommendation. The Commission will discuss these options at the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 3.
- Commissioner Robertson provided information from an article in Pasadena Now on August 30 regarding the City Council's request for staff to draft a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance in Pasadena and hold discussions about the draft with the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Robertson requested Staff (Osborne) to follow up to verify the status of draft ordinance and the request to discuss the draft ordinance with the Commission.
- Commissioner Robertson encouraged the Commission to research the existing non-discrimination ordinances in the City in preparation for the discussion.

October 2023:

- Chair Greenstein reported she virtually attended the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission meeting and the Transformative Justice ad hoc committee meeting on Monday, September 11, and shared information from the meeting pertinent to the work of the Commission.
- Staff (Osborne) provided an update on the Mills Place plaques and stated the Commission will be able to see a sample of the plaque at a future meeting before it is finalized and installed.

November 2023:

- Chair Greenstein reported Commissioner Horton and herself virtually attended the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission Transformative Justice ad hoc committee meeting on Monday, November 6, and shared information from the meeting pertinent to the work of the Commission.

- Chair Greenstein reported she received a document that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides to individuals that are victims of hate crimes and incidents. The ad hoc committee will research how the document can be utilized by the Pasadena Police Department.
- The ad hoc committee will discuss how the Commission can collaborate with the Pasadena Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the Community Conflict Resolution Unit (CCRU) to address hate crimes and hate incidents in Pasadena.

December 2023:

- Staff (Osborne) will contact Chief Harris, Pasadena Police Department, regarding the Commission's recommendation of the adoption of the 211 LA hate incident reporting system and will provide an update to the Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting on February 6.
- Staff (Osborne) shared a picture of the Mills Place plaque and provided an update on the timeline for the installation of the plaques.
- The Commission approved the cancellation of their regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024, and scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, January 9, 2024, to coincide with the event to commemorate the installation of the Mills Place plaques.

January 2024:

- The Mills Place Alley plaques were completed and installed on Tuesday, January 9. The plaques are installed on the east side of the building located at 33 West Green Street and on a stand in front of the building located at 33 South Fair Oaks Avenue, which is near the original façade of the laundry building.
- The Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, January 9 adjacent to 33 West Green Street, the site of the first plaque and attendees heard remarks from City representatives, and stakeholders.
- During the special meeting held on Tuesday, January 9, Jubilee Byfield, Field Representative for Congresswoman Judy Chu presented a Certificate of Congressional Recognition to the Commission in recognition of the unveiling of historical plaques. Chair Greenstein accepted the certificate on behalf of the Commission.

February 2024:

- Meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum

March 2024:

- Review continued to the April meeting

Status:

Human Relations Commission Presentation Calendar FY 2023-2024

To be scheduled:

- Presentation from LA Crime Stoppers regarding the services provided for Pasadena residents

July 2023

- Presentation from Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission regarding the LA vs Hate program and the LA County Commission Strategic Priorities for 2023-2024.

August 2023

- No presentation

September 2023

- No presentation

October 2023

- Presentation from Parks, Recreation and Community Services regarding Latino Heritage Month Celebrations - Pamela Cantero, Recreation and Community Services Superintendent

November 2023

- Presentation regarding the Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity programs - Dr. Tashiana Bryant-Myrick, Director
- Presentation from the California Civil Rights Department regarding the Community Conflict Resolution Unit (CCRU) – Gregory Mann, Senior Attorney Mediator
- Presentation from the Pasadena Library regarding Early Equity Kits for Children – Carla Hegwood, Early Development Coordinator, Office of the Young Child

December 2023

- Presentation from the City of Pasadena Public Information Officer regarding the City's response to incidents of misinformation and disinformation in the community – Lisa Derderian, Public Information Officer

January 2024

- Presentation regarding the installation of the Mills Place plaques recognizing inaccuracies pertaining to a Chinese business and settlers in Pasadena.- Sandy Greenstein, Chair, Human Relations Commission

February 2024

- Meeting cancelled due to a lack of quorum

March 2024

- Presentation from the Design and Historic Preservation Division regarding Historic Places in Pasadena project – Kevin Johnson, Principal Planner Planning and Community Development Department

April 2024

- Presentation regarding discrimination of Asian-Americans in Pasadena – Kaz Doi
- Presentation from the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center Safety and Wellbeing of San Gabriel LGBTQ+ Community – Camila Camaleón, President, Board of Directors

May 2024

- (tentative) Recognition of Sheldon Epps, Former Artistic Director, Pasadena Playhouse
- (tentative) Presentation from Hahn and Hahn regarding their efforts to work with local groups adversely impacted by a decades-old hate campaign aimed at preventing people of color from buying property in Pasadena – Presenter TBD (Greenstein)

June 2024: Annual Meeting

(updated March 13, 2024)

PASADENA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: HONORING FOUR (4) CHINESE AMERICAN LEADERS FOR THEIR AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

JOHN F. KENNEDY

THE 35TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

These iconic and electrifying words delivered in the course of President Kennedy’s inaugural address on January 20, 1961 “inspired children and adults to see the importance of civic action and public service,” and “challenged every American to contribute in some way to the public good.” Now, more than a half-century later with America in the throes of an existential threat, where demagogues and zealots afflicted with xenophobia, racism, homophobia, religious bigotry, and exclusionary particularism are aggressively directing their radical tentacles of fear and hatred selectively towards people of color, we respectfully ask the Pasadena Human Relations Commission to officially reaffirm the true spirit of President Kennedy’s inaugural message, by recognizing and honoring the tremendous contributions of four (4) Chinese Americans whose engagement in civic action, and their commitment to service and sacrifice as part of their patriotic duty, exemplifies President Kennedy’s extraordinary message.

BACKGROUND:

America's enduring saga of racism and xenophobia has again manifested itself in today's American landscape with horrific acts of intimidation and violence directed towards Chinese Americans and Asian Americans, inflamed by a toxic social media ecosystem and the extreme and fanatical rhetoric from some of America's most "patriotic" and "Make America Great Again" political leaders. While some of this hatred and violence was facilitated by demagoguery and ignorance associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-Chinese attitudes have been deeply embedded in American history. Although the abuse and discrimination faced by Chinese immigrants in America is generally accepted as historical fact, the majority of Pasadena residents today are not only ignorant of the mistreatment of Chinese immigrants in their city's past, but uninformed of the tremendous contributions Chinese Americans have made in making Pasadena the prosperous and highly acclaimed "Crown City."

Despite the imposition of the Chinese Exclusion Act during the 19th century, the first and only major federal legislation to explicitly suspend immigration for a specific nationality, there are six (6) generations of Chinese Americans today, testimony to their multi-generational presence in America, and a manifestation of their resiliency and tenacity in overcoming “yellow peril” hysteria and racism.

It should be noted particularly during the Civil Rights era, Chinese Americans were characterized as the “model minority;” a stereotyping of Chinese as high-achievers both economically and educationally - attributable to hardwork and deferential to parental and authority figures. This enduring myth designed as a racial wedge between Chinese and Black people “has been conveniently used as a narrative to minimize racial discrimination and to justify policies that overlook the historical circumstances and impacts of colonialism, slavery and segregation on other non-White racial and ethnic groups.” Additionally, Chinese Americans suffer from “continued barriers that restrict their full participation in American society, including systemic discrimination in the form of the perpetual ‘foreigner stereotype,’ and the imposition of the ‘bamboo ceiling’ when it comes to their career advancement and opportunity.”

Fortunately in the 21st century, the City of Pasadena much to its credit has created a different ethnological scenario – a microcosm of the city’s overall commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion - by openly extending a “welcome mat” to Chinese Americans, grounded on the tremendous contributions they have made to the wellbeing and prosperity of Pasadena communities, and facilitated by the expansive role Chinese investments have generated particularly in real estate, hospitality, financial service, and retail sector. Undoubtedly, the relatively healthy economic growth the city is fortunately blessed with has been “uniquely influenced” by the outreach and footprint of Chinese Americans on the city’s socioeconomic environment.

CONCLUSION:

In today’s sociopolitical environment, one can easily conclude that America is in the midst of a metamorphosis, where its character and identity are undergoing radical change. There are undeniably some extremely disturbing trends that cannot be ignored, particularly when major shifts and developments in America’s social landscape, which have taken place during these first decades of the 21st century, are taken into consideration.

But despite all the calamitous and divisive events beleaguering the nation today, making Pasadenans knowledgeable of the tremendous contributions of the four (4) Chinese American leaders certainly facilitates a greater understanding and awareness of the diversity of human experiences and hopefully brings about empathy and greater understanding for a race of people whose American history has been neglected and marginalized. Whether we realize it or not, American culture cannot be defined without the Chinese American influence!

AL LOWE:

Was a fourth generation American of Chinese descent, who was a successful businessman and a courageous, dedicated, and highly principled, major force in the Pasadena community for many years. He served with distinction on numerous community boards such as the Pasadena YWCA, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, and the Tournament of Roses Association. He was the first person of color to be elected to the Pasadena Unified School Board, and as Board chairman, he rose to prominence by supporting the federal court order to institute forced busing of public school kids to achieve racial balance - a courageous act that caused many white people to aggressively boycott his business and resulted in numerous threats of violence directed towards Mr. Lowe and his family. Over the years, Mr. Lowe helped integrate and diversify the Tournament of Roses Association, and as chairman of the Pasadena Playhouse, helped that company overcome its financial problems. He was eulogized in a column written by the editor of the San Gabriel Valley Newspapers: "His genius for negotiation and compromise had nothing to do with his race, it had everything to do with every fiber of his personal being."

DOMINIC NG:

Pasadena based East West Bank, led by their charismatic Chairman, President and CEO, Dominic Ng, is the largest publicly traded bank headquartered in Southern California, and ranked number five of "America's 100 Best Banks," by Forbes. Since 1991, Mr. Ng has transformed East West from a small savings and loan association with \$600 million in assets into a full-service commercial bank with total assets of over \$60 billion. Established in 1973 to primarily serve the Chinese American community in Southern California, the bank under Mr. Ng's extraordinary leadership, has become a Pasadena community asset spearheaded by his amazing commitment to improving the city of Pasadena's quality of life and to help build a stronger community. Through his leadership and vision for a stronger America, East West Bank has established and maintained meaningful relationships with a diverse and growing number of nonprofits and community-based organizations such as: Pasadena Community Foundation, Boys & Girls Club, Five Acres, Villa Esperanza Services, and The Salvation Army, while making generous donations to various organizations including the Pasadena Police Foundation and the Pasadena Fire Department's designated charity. Mr. Ng has been duly recognized and honored by a multitude of business and civic organizations not only for his professional contributions, but also for his remarkable philanthropic endeavors and exceptional dedication to supporting and helping American communities.

ANDREW CHERNG:

Founder and owner of the Panda Restaurant Group, together with his family opened their first Chinese restaurant in Pasadena in 1973. Their initial startup eventually led to the creation of the Panda Restaurant Group; a company not only known for the quality of their service and culinary products, but more importantly, developed a business image that exemplifies the true

American spirit of social responsibility. In 1999, Mr. Cherng established "Panda Cares," their philanthropic arm that is committed to serving communities by providing funding, support, and volunteer services to a wide range of community and national programs. Since its inception, Panda Cares has amazingly and patriotically raised more than \$247 million for their community service endeavors, including a multitude of services and programs funded and supported in the city of Pasadena.

WILLIAM HUANG

Mr. Huang, directs the City of Pasadena Housing Department which provides a wide array of housing and homeless programs, as well as funding for social service and economic development activities with an annual budget of approximately \$50 million. Under his strong leadership and innovative wherewithal, Pasadena is actively engaged in affordable housing with a highly effective inclusionary housing ordinance, numerous transit oriented developments, an innovative housing first program, along with a wide-range of social services and outstanding economic development initiatives. Professionally qualified as a former licensed architect with degrees from SCI-Arc and Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and the recipient of numerous professional and academic awards, the city under his directorship was recognized by the Urban Land Institute with the Larsen Housing Policy Leadership Award for the top housing policy for a mid-sized city and was recognized by the Ivory Prize for housing innovation!