



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**
<https://youthcommission.lacounty.gov>

Thursday, June 29, 2023

6:30 PM



I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (23-2392)

Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call, and Commissioner Peña read the County's Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Present: Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson and Commissioner Ezekiel Nishiyama

2. Approval of minutes from the May 25, 2023 meeting. (23-2393)

On motion of Co-Chair Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Valenzuela, and duly carried (Commissioners Cooper, Elizondo, Flores Urrutia, Jackson, and Nishiyama being absent), the minutes for the May 25, 2023 meeting were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the June 3, 2023 special meeting. (23-2402)

On motion of Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Smiley, and duly carried (Commissioners Cooper, Elizondo, Flores Urrutia, Jackson, and Nishiyama being absent), the minutes for the June 3, 2023 special meeting were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Leadership Report. (23-2394)

Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., reported the following:

- **The recent Youth Commission Retreat offered a greater understanding of Commissioner roles and provisions within the Ralph M. Brown Act.**
- **Along with Commissioners Peña and Smiley, he attended the recent Independent Living Graduations where they engaged with the graduating youth and staff from the County's Chief Executive Office.**
- **He shared his sentiments regarding the difference between the two graduation events that were held based on the student's GPA. Discussion ensued relative to both events. Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., suggested inviting DCFS to obtain more information.**
- **Commissioner Nishiyama attended the Department of Youth Development's retreat and will provide a debrief at the next meeting.**

5. Executive Director's Report. (23-2408)

Executive Director, Tiara Summers, welcomed new Commissioners Evelyn Rodriguez and Martine Jones. She reported that the Department of Youth Development (DYD) will hold Listening Sessions in East L.A., South L.A., and Lancaster in the Antelope Valley.

Executive Director Summers stated that listening sessions provide a great opportunity for Commissioners to collaborate with the DYD and she encouraged them to attend. She then reported that the following departments are scheduled for future presentations this year:

- **Los Angeles County Ombudsperson - July**
- **Department of Youth Development - August**
- **Department of Probation and Los Angeles County Office of Education - September**

- **Department of Children and Family Services - October**

Executive Director Summers indicated that departments will be asked to provide quarterly updates to the Youth Commission after their presentation.

Co-Chair Hernandez recommended that the Commissioners prepare for each scheduled presentation so that they can understand the departments' role and engage with them accordingly.

III. COMMITTEE UPDATES

6. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (23-2397)

In the absence of the Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) Chair, Co-Chair Hernandez provided the update. Co-Chair Hernandez indicated that YEC Chair Cooper has been working hard to facilitate youth engagement in each of the Supervisorial Districts. The last Listening Session was held on June 17, 2023, in the Fourth District. Co-Chair Hernandez invited Commissioners who attended to share their experience.

Commissioner Robinson reported that Commissioners were able to engage with the youth who attended. She thanked the Women and Girls Initiative for providing bags to participants, as well as staff, who helped with the setup. Also thanked were The RightWay Foundation for their participation and Saving Innocence who provided gift cards.

Commissioner Robinson also indicated that the event was held at an easy to find location with great park amenities. She stated that the data from the survey responses will be reported to the Youth Commission upon YEC review. Executive Director Summers commended Commissioner Robinson on her work in planning the event.

Commissioner Smiley requested name tags be used at future events for easy identification, and discussion ensued.

Member of the public, Kate from California Youth Connection, addressed the Commission.

7. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (23-2395)

In the absence of Operations Committee (OPS) Chair, Co-Chair Hernandez provided a brief update. Co-Chair Hernandez stated that OPS Chair Elizondo has been working diligently to facilitate Operations' priorities.

8. Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, update by Ad Hoc Committee Chair Florencia Valenzuela. (23-2396)

Commissioner Valenzuela, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee, reported the following:

- **Steps being taken to finalize the recommended report card for the Probation Department and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will include additional listening sessions within the community to help with feedback. The Committee will consider having the report card address specific policies rather than the Department overall.**
- **Dr. Wendy Wiegmann, Project Director of the California Child Welfare Indicators Project at U.C. Berkeley, has assisted with the research and in condensing the questions already submitted to the Departments.**
- **At the first Ad Hoc Committee meeting there will be a discussion to refine the direction of the report card based on the department responses.**

Discussion ensued on the intent of the report card and the age of focus that will be considered. Executive Director Summers reminded Commissioners that Ad Hoc Chair Valenzuela will help with preliminary ideas for defining the work of the report card and will continue to update the Commission as-a-whole during the process.

Commissioner Jones suggested that the report card be utilized as an advice tool for the Departments in assessing strengths and weaknesses, so that the report card provides solutions in a possible, fair and equitable manner.

IV. PRESENTATION

9. Presentation on the legislative review process. (23-2398)

Co-Chair Hernandez provided an overview on the process of how the Commission can recommend a position for legislation at the federal and state level.

She indicated that the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR), is the entity that analyzes various bills that come through the federal and state level for County advocacy as well as analysis of budget proposals. A presentation is being scheduled with Amanda Meere, Legislative Affairs Representative, for a review of the process.

Discussion ensued regarding the Youth Commission's role in recommending a position on legislation, and the possibility of creating a working group or ad hoc committee to track and research legislation. Executive Director Summers reviewed the process of legislative advocacy and the role of the Youth Commission in supporting legislation, which, ultimately, must align with the Board of Supervisors.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

10. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (23-2399)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

11. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (23-2400)

The following items were requested:

- Invite Department of Children and Family Services for a discussion on their independent living graduation ceremonies.
- Invite Metro LA for a discussion on the new Metro Ambassador Program instituted to provide additional safety on the rail lines, as well as inviting LA Metro's Youth Advisory Board.
- Invite CEO staff to speak on the County's budget process.
- Invite City of L.A. and City of Long Beach Youth Council members to discuss items in their purview that the Youth Commission should be made aware of for advocacy and/or support.
- Discuss a potential site visit to Central Juvenile Hall prior to and after the youth move to new facilities.

12. Adjournment. (23-2401)

On motion of Co-Chair Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Smiley, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.