



**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, January 30, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

Video for the entire meeting. (25-0874)

**Attachments:** [VIDEO](#)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (25-0414)

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call, Commissioner Christian Gudiel read the County's Land Acknowledgement, and a moment of silence was observed to honor those affected by recent wildfires.**

Present: Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, 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: Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr.

2. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of November 21, 2024. (25-0429)

**On motion of Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of November 21, 2024, were approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 10 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

**Abstentions:** 2 - Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Absent:** 3 - Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Discussion and vote on the Commission Leadership Structure for 2025: (1) One Chair and one Vice Chair, or (2) Two Co-Chairs. (25-0482)

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez opened the floor to discussion and vote regarding the structure of the Youth Commission to consider having two Co-Chairs or change to one Chair and one Vice-Chair, and discussion ensued.**

**After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Florencia "Flo" Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, and duly carried, the Youth Commission approved the structure of two Co-Chairs by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 12 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Absent:** 3 - Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

4. Discussion and vote on the 2025 Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers. (25-0483)

**Election Chair Christian Gudiel introduced the slate of nominees for the two Co-Chair positions for the 2025 Term as follows: Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, and Commissioner Brittianna Robinson.**

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**There being no additional nominations, Election Chair Gudiel closed the nominations and invited the nominees to make remarks on their qualifications. Commissioner Elizondo, Commissioner Peña, Commissioner Robinson, and Co-Chair Hernandez made statements in support of their election. Max Wetz, Communication Liaison, read a prepared statement submitted by Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., who was absent.**

**On motion of Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, and duly carried, the Nomination Slate for 2025 was approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes: 13 -** Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Absent: 2 -** Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr. and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

**Election Chair Gudiel instructed Commissioners to complete their ballot, which would become a public document, and staff collected ballots for tabulation and the item was tabled.**

**Later in the meeting, after Agenda Item No. 5, this item was recalled and Election Chair Gudiel reported that there was a tie between Commissioners Elizondo, Peña and Co-Chair Hernandez. Commissioners were provided with a second ballot, and staff collected the ballots for tabulation and the item was tabled.**

**Later in the meeting, after Agenda Item No. 6, this item was recalled and Election Chair Gudiel reported that there was another tie between Commissioners Elizondo and Peña. Commissioners were provided with a third ballot. Staff collected the ballots for tabulation and the item was tabled.**

**Later in the meeting, after Agenda Item No. 11, this item was recalled and Election Chair Gudiel reported that the ballots were tabulated, and Commissioner Elizondo and Commissioner Robinson received the majority of votes.**

**On motion of Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, and duly carried, the election of Commissioner Joshua Elizondo and Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, as Co-Chairs was approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 14 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, 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:** 1 - Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr.

## **II. REPORTS**

**5. Leadership Report. (25-0439)**

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez opened the Leadership Report by commending Commissioners Myriah Smiley and Angela Young for their time on the Youth Commission as their term is expiring. She spoke about the importance of their work on the Commission and their commitment to the youth in the community. Commissioners Smiley and Young were presented with a certificate from the Commission as well as scrolls from their respective Supervisors. Commissioners were collectively congratulated for their tenure, work and dedication.**

**Commissioners Smiley and Young provided their personal remarks. Tiara Summers, Executive Director, also provided her personal thoughts on the Commissioners and thanked them for their dedication and offered encouragement in their future endeavors.**

**6. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (25-0454)**

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez opened the floor for Commissioner reports on activities and events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission.**

**Commissioner Christian Gudiel reported that he attended the Meeting of Styles: International Street Art and Graffiti event. Many international artists were in attendance as well as several organizations. His main take away from the event is that youth would like to see a community art initiative as a way of utilizing it as a youth advocacy platform for social justice and to**

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help individuals form their identity, as well as beautifying the community and preventing crime.

Commissioners collectively thanked Commissioner Brittianna Robinson for her work and dedication regarding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Empowerment Event. They spoke about the public exposure that the issue is getting within in the community due to her efforts, after which photos of the event were shown. In appreciation for her commitment, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia presented Commissioner Robinson with flowers.

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo reported on upcoming events; the CHLA (Children's Hospital Los Angeles) Children's Health and Wellness Collaborative meeting will take place on Friday, January 31, 2025, in February he will speak with CHLA at a Department of Public Health Convening for Youth, and the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) will be holding their second youth listening session sometime next month.

### **III. UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATION**

7. Update on Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in.  
Understanding and Addressing Origin and Obstacles: Ending Intergenerational Homelessness and Housing Insecurity, Incarceration, and Systems Involvement and Ensuring Generational and Life-Long Success for Transition Age Youth (June 25, 2024, Board Agenda Item 2).  
Setting Youth Up for Success: Adulthood, Money Management, Personal Rights, and Education (August 6, 2024, Board Agenda Item 16).  
Establishing New Reporting and Accountability Structure for the Child Trafficking Strategic Plan (August 6, 2024, Board Agenda Item 26). (25-0453)

**Tiara Summers, Executive Director, reported on the three motions that the Youth Commission (YC) has been named in: Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Motion; Ombudsperson Motion; and Trafficking Motion. She then reported the following:**

- **TAY Motion: the Youth Commission will serve as Co-Chairs along with the Department of Youth Development (DYD) on the Subcommittee of Engagement and Access, concentrating on the expansion of the Youth App. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025, with a report due back to the Board of Supervisors on December 23, 2025.**
- **Ombudsperson Motion: Commissioners will have the opportunity, among other directives, to serve as facilitators in training social workers on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR).**

- **Trafficking Motion: the recent CSEC event led by Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, fulfilled one of the Board's directives. Commissioner Robinson demonstrated perseverance and dedication to the CSEC Community and has been asked to present an overview of the Child Trafficking Leadership Team's (CTLT) Five-Year Strategic Plan at the YC meeting of February 27, 2025. The Strategic Plan will offer additional opportunities for Commissioners to participate in the Motion's directives.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - MOTION \(June 25, 2024, Board Agenda\)](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - REPORT \(June 25, 2024, Board Agenda\)](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - MOTION \(August 6, 2024, Board Agenda\)](#)  
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8. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo and Recommendation to Approve the Nomination of At Large Youth Commission Candidates. (25-0462)

**Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee (OPS), reported the following:**

- **A CSEC prompt was added as a demographic identifier to the commissioner application.**
- **The Commissioner evaluation was renamed to Commissioner Reflection, and the format is still being worked on. The final version will be brought back to the full Commission for feedback and approval.**
- **Recommended two candidates to fill the at-large vacancies, Mercedes Jackson (District 2), and Jessica Castillo (District 3) and provided their qualifications.**

**Mercedes Jackson and Jessica Castillo, Members of the Public, addressed the Commission.**

**OPS Chair Joshua Elizondo provided information on forthcoming vacancies and the timeline for getting them recruited, vetted and placed.**

**After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Cristopher Espino, seconded by Commissioner Martine Jones, and duly carried, the two candidates for the at large vacancies were approved to have their names submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Said motion was approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 14 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, 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:** 1 - Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr.

9. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (25-0463)

**Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), provided the following report:**

- **The February YEC meeting is cancelled.**
- **Max Weltz, Communication Liaison, will be accepting videos to be shown at Youth Commission Meetings. February is an opportunity to recognize Black History Month.**
- **Youth in the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Dorothy Kirby Center attended the CSEC Event virtually. This is a tool that can be utilized for Listening Sessions.**
- **The first Listening Session will be held in the Fifth District on Saturday, March 22, 2025, in Pasadena. The theme will be centered on healing.**

**Discussion ensued regarding the YC Shout Out, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to have the Shout Out at the first meeting following Listening Sessions, as many remarkable youths come forward at the Listening Sessions. Also, YEC Chair Cooper encouraged Commissioners to advise Ashley Carrillo Lopez of their planned attendance for all Listening Sessions to ensure Commissioner attendance remains under quorum.**

**YEC Chair Cooper reported that there will be amendments to the forthcoming Listening Session Survey prompted by youth feedback. Commissioner Joshua Elizondo reported that the Listening Session for the Third District has been changed to Friday, August 22, 2025. Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez reminded Commissioners that a calendar with all meeting and event dates has been emailed to all Commissioners.**

**Chair Cooper encouraged Commissioners to continue to partner with various agencies regarding the YC's focus areas.**

**IV. 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. (25-0468)

**No members of the public addressed the Youth 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. (25-0473)

**Co-Chair Hernandez clarified that submission of videos to be shown at Commission meetings can be sent to Max Weltz.**

12. Adjournment. (25-0480)

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.**

**On motion of Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.**