

**From:** Christina Hall [mailto:chall@tnpsocal.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:51 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Agenda Item 15 on 7/20/2021 City Council Agenda

**-EXTERNAL-**

Hello,  
Please find a letter outlining our organization's support of Agenda Item 15 on the July 20<sup>th</sup> City Council Agenda.

Thank you,  
Christina

**Christina Hall**  
Program Manager

**The Nonprofit Partnership**

🏠 | 4900 E. Conant Street, Long Beach, CA 90808  
☎️ | 562.888.6530  
✉️ | [chall@tnpsocal.org](mailto:chall@tnpsocal.org)



[Click here](#) for our upcoming programs.

 [LongBeachNonprofitPartnership](#)

 [@TNPartnership](#)

July 13, 2021

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

It is with great pleasure that we submit this letter of support for agenda item 15, coming before Council on July 20, 2021, a recommendation to prepare an Ordinance amending Chapter 2.44 of the LBMC to revise the title of the Human Relations Commission to the Equity and Human Relations Commission; to amend the purpose, functions, and membership of the HRC; and to fund \$200,000 per year to support the work of the Commission.

As the City of Long Beach engages in efforts to institutionalize equity and infuse an equity lens throughout its practices, policies, and decision-making, it is critical that an independent, citizen commission has the ability to advise City Council on matters of equity and social justice, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought-partnership throughout the process.

A key focus of the updated Equity and Human Relations Commission is to engage and include more diverse, marginalized voices into the City's programs, services and policy making, including more Black, Indigenous, People of Color, as well as LGBTQ+, formerly incarcerated individuals, people with disabilities, and women. Currently, the City does not have a coordinated effort that focuses on equitable citywide community engagement, leaving departmental efforts siloed and less effective than a collective and coordinated model would allow for. Additionally, the current community engagement model consists of engaging the same community members over and over again, leaving community advocates over engaged and, at times, tokenized.

Centering the voices and lived experiences of Communities most impacted by systemic racism and other inequities in policies, practices, and programs is the path to equity. As such, we urge you to fund \$200K for the Office of Equity to support the advisory activities of the newly envisioned Equity & Human Relations Commission, and also build and support a more coordinated community engagement infrastructure, a critical component of creating a more equitable city.

It is time to update the Human Relations Commission's Ordinance to reflect modern approaches to addressing inequity and human relations issues and to provide the resources necessary to ensure we are reaching every resident in every corner of our city. Please vote in support of transforming the HRC into an Equity and Human Relations Commission as laid out in the HRC's Approved Ordinance Amendment Recommendations.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important need in our community.

Respectfully,

Michelle Byerly  
Executive Director  
The Nonprofit Partnership



562.888.6530

4900 E. Conant Street  
Long Beach, CA 90808

[tnpsocal.org](http://tnpsocal.org)    

**From:** Parisa Vinzant [mailto:parisa@vinzantgroup.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:49 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Agenda Item 15. 21-0693

**-EXTERNAL-**

Good afternoon, I'm sharing the below remarks for public comment for Agenda Item 15. 21-0693:

Good Evening Mayor and City Council. I'm unable to attend tonight's meeting in-person, so I'm sharing via e-comment my strong support of Agenda Item 15. 21-0693 to revise the title of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) to the Long Beach Equity and Human Relations Commission as well as to revise the purpose, functions, and membership of the HRC. I'm sharing my thoughts solely as a resident of Long Beach, but my perspective is informed by my experience as a city commissioner and as an equity consultant working with the Office of Equity to develop the City's first-ever Equity Toolkit. I have seen the progress Long Beach has taken and continues to take to better operationalize equity into the core of its operations and how it engages with and serves its constituents, but this progress has been slow and uneven at times. A necessary step in this process is to build out the capacity, processes, and support structures for the City to deliver on its promises for the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative and as described in the goals and strategies of the Initial Report that was passed by unanimous vote by City Council on August 11, 2020. Expanding the jurisdiction of HRC—an independent and citizen led commission—so that it can advise City Council on matters of equity and social justice and provide accountability and thought partnership throughout deployment of Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative is a critically important action. Not only that, but City Council must act to fully fund the Equity and Human Relations Commission to ensure staff and commissioners alike have the needed resources and capacity to take up and deliver on this vital work. Unanimous passage of Agenda Item 15 would send a clear signal that the Long Beach City Council is committed to delivering substantial and meaningful action on the City's Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative. Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.

Thank you for your assistance!  
All my best,  
Parisa Vinzant