



3605 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 100
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Reena Hajat Carroll

January 19, 2021

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Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

It is with great pleasure that the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) submits this letter of support for agenda item 17, coming before Council on January 19, 2021, a recommendation to expand the purview and scope of the Human Relations Commission and update the name to better reflect the core work of the Commission.

For decades, the Human Relations Commission has been a strong ally and advocate in the fight for a more just and equitable Long Beach, uplifting the experiences and needs of marginalized communities. Expanding the official purview of the Commission will aid the commission in fulfilling its mission to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster a mutual understanding and respect for all.

Advisory Committee:

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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 Staff, City Manager and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought-partnership throughout the process.

CCEJ is proud to support this important first step in positioning the Human Relations Commission to provide oversight and accountability as the City begins implementing the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.

Founders Circle:

Barbara & Ray Alpert
Amy & Rich Lipeles
Susan & Mort Stuhlberg
Ann & Gene Lentzner (Legacy)
Henry Meyer

It is time to update the Human Relations Commission's ordinance to reflect modern approaches to addressing inequity and human rights issues. Please vote in support of transforming the HRC into an Equity and Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Reena Hajat Carroll, MSW
Executive Director
California Conference for Equality and Justice

Our Mission

The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ), is a human relations organization dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry and racism through education, conflict resolution and advocacy.

January 19, 2021

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

It is with great pleasure that I am submitting this letter of support for agenda item 17, coming before Council on January 19, 2021, a recommendation to expand the purview and scope of the Human Relations Commission and update the name to better reflect the core work of the Commission.

For decades, the Human Relations Commission has been a strong ally and advocate in the fight for a more just and equitable Long Beach, uplifting the experiences and needs of marginalized communities. Expanding the official purview of the Commission will aid the commission in fulfilling its mission to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster a mutual understanding and respect for all.

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 Staff, City Manager and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought-partnership throughout the process.

I am proud to support this important first step in positioning the Human Relations Commission to provide oversight and accountability as the City begins implementing the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.

It is time to update the Human Relations Commission's ordinance to reflect modern approaches to addressing inequity and human rights issues. Please vote in support of transforming the HRC into an Equity and Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Jessica Schumer
Vice Chair, Economic Development Commission



6509 Gundry Ave., Long Beach CA 90805 • Phone (562) 336-1833 • Tax ID# 84-4693859 • www.lbcei.org

Long Beach Center for
Economic Inclusion

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2021**

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Jeff Williams, Interim Director

January 19, 2021

City of Long Beach
411 W. Broadway
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Letter of Support for Equity and Human Rights Commission

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

It is with great pleasure that the Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion submits this letter of support for agenda item 17, coming before Council on January 19, 2021, a recommendation to expand the purview and scope of the Human Relations Commission and update the name to better reflect the core work of the Commission.

For decades, the Human Relations Commission has been a strong ally and advocate in the fight for a more just and equitable Long Beach, uplifting the experiences and needs of marginalized communities. Expanding the official purview of the Commission will aid the commission in fulfilling its mission to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster a mutual understanding and respect for all.

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 Staff, City Manager and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought-partnership throughout the process.

The Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion is proud to support this important first step in positioning the Human Relations Commission to provide oversight and accountability as the City begins implementing the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.

It is time to update the Human Relations Commission's ordinance to reflect modern approaches to addressing inequity and human rights issues. Please vote in support of transforming the HRC into an Equity and Human Rights Commission.

The Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion is a community development corporation that expands inclusive economic opportunities to build and sustain wealth for all communities in Long Beach

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact the office at 562 336-1833 or admin@lbcei.org

Thank You!

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Robert M. Cabeza" in a cursive script.

Bob Cabeza
Chair



January 19, 2021

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 17, Long Beach Equity Commission

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Long Beach Forward submits this letter of support for agenda item 17 and asks for your affirmative vote to expand the purview and scope of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and continue working towards equity for all residents who call Long Beach home.

Whether we are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Cambodian, Filipino, LGBTQ, young people, or seniors, it is vital that we all see the diversity and culture of Long Beach prioritized within our local government. Moving equity from pages in a report to tangible policy recommendations and decision making is the next bold step the City of Long Beach must take to build on the foundational work that has come from community-driven activism, the Office of Equity, and the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation.

The HRC has consistently played a strong role within our local government for a more just and equitable Long Beach, uplifting the experiences and needs of marginalized communities and translating this into tangible change for people's lives. Expanding the official purview of the Commission will aid the commission in fulfilling its mission to inspire and implement equity in the City of Long Beach and foster a mutual understanding and respect for all. It is critical that an independent, citizen commission has the ability to advise City Staff, City Managers, and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought-partnership throughout the process.

Working towards equity is not an easy process. Equity "requires that we understand the past, without being trapped in it; embrace the present, without being constrained by it; and look to the future, guided by the hopes and courage of those who have fought before and beside us."¹ As City leadership continues to work towards advancing Long Beach into the new decade, we must also plan for "just and fair inclusion into a society where all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential."² Committing to an Equity Commission is a solid step in that direction.

¹ "The Equity Manifesto." PolicyLink, www.policylink.org/about-us/equity-manifesto.

² *ibid*



Long Beach Forward is proud to support this important first step to provide citizen oversight and accountability in our equity-driven efforts. We ask for your support in transforming the HRC into an Equity Commission. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Suazo", written in a cursive style.

James Suazo
Executive Director
Long Beach Forward



January 19, 2021

The Honorable Robert Garcia and
The Long Beach City Council
Long Beach City Hall
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the
City Council:

It is with great pleasure that Success in Challenges, Inc. submits this letter of support for agenda item 17, coming before the Council on January 19, 2021, concerning a recommendation to expand the purview and extent of the Human Relations Commission and update the name to better reflect the core mission and work of the Commission.

For many years, the Human Relations Commission has been a strong ally and advocate in the fight for a more just and equitable Long Beach, uplifting and experiences and needs of marginalized, low-income communities. Expanding the official purview of the Commission will aid the commission in fulfilling its stated mission to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster a mutual understanding and respect for all community members.

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 be enabled to advise City Staff, the City Manager and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and partnership throughout the process.

Success in Challenges, Inc. is proud to support this very important first step in positioning the Human Relations Commission to provide oversight and accountability as the City begins its implementation of the Framework for Racial Equality and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.

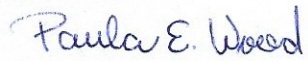
www.successinchallenges.com

Phone Number: 800.791.5952 | Fax: 562.349.0467

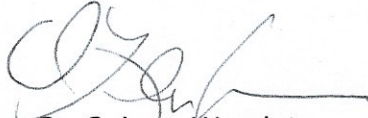
Mail Only: 4508 Atlantic Ave. #782, Long Beach, Ca. 90807 | Physical Location: 5239 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Ca. 90805

It is time to update the Human Relations Commission's mission and ordinance to reflect modern approaches to addressing inequity and human rights issues. Please vote in support of transforming the HRC into an Equity and Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,



Paula E. Wood.
Executive Director



Rev. Dr. O. Leon Wood, Jr.
President



January 19, 2021

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

It is with great pleasure that the Long Beach Ministers Alliance submits this letter of support for agenda item 17, coming before Council on January 19, 2021, a recommendation to expand the purview and scope of the Human Relations Commission and update the name to better reflect the core work of the Commission.

For decades, the Human Relations Commission has been a strong ally and advocate in the fight for a more just and equitable Long Beach, uplifting the experiences and needs of marginalized communities. Expanding the official purview of the Commission will aid the commission in fulfilling its mission to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster a mutual understanding and respect for all.

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 Staff, City Manager and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought-partnership throughout the process.

The Minister's Alliance is proud to support this important first step in positioning the Human Relations Commission to provide oversight and accountability as the City begins implementing the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.

It is time to update the Human Relations Commission's ordinance to reflect modern approaches to addressing inequity and human rights issues. Please vote in support of transforming the HRC into an Equity and Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Gregory Sanders, Pastor
Long Beach Minister's Alliance



January 19, 2021

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

It is with great pleasure that The LGBTQ Center Long Beach submits this letter of support for agenda item 17, coming before Council on January 19, 2021, a recommendation to expand the purview and scope of the Human Relations Commission and update the name to better reflect the core work of the Commission.

For decades, the Human Relations Commission has been a strong ally and advocate in the fight for a more just and equitable Long Beach, uplifting the experiences and needs of marginalized communities. Expanding the official purview of the Commission will aid the commission in fulfilling its mission to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster a mutual understanding and respect for all.

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 Staff, City Manager and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought-partnership throughout the process.

The LGBTQ Center Long Beach is proud to support this important first step in positioning the Human Relations Commission to provide oversight and accountability as the City begins implementing the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.

It is time to update the Human Relations Commission's ordinance to reflect modern approaches to addressing inequity and human rights issues. Please vote in support of transforming the HRC into an Equity and Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Andrew Dorado
Interim Executive Director
The LGBTQ Center Long Beach

Walter Larkins
American, Blackman, Veteran and Community Member

Subject: Letter of Support

Date: January 19, 2021

Re: Agenda Item #17 Role of HRC

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

I present this letter of support as a fellow American, a Black man, Veteran and community member that believes in the promise of America of agenda item 17, coming before Council, January 19, 2021. I support the expansion of the role and scope of the Human Relations Commission and renaming the HRC to the "Equity and Human Rights Commission". This important first step will enable the Commission to provide oversight and accountability that will help the City implement the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.

Equity has always been a part of the 10 Year Blueprint approved by the City Council. Long Beach as the most diverse city in America has always taken a leadership role and set the standard of what is possible. The death of Mr. Floyd at the hands of the police in such a public way combined with the ravishes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Black and other people of color, has served to bring to the forefront how racism and the lack of equity in our country permeates every aspect of our society.

The day after the celebration of MLK's birthday is an appropriate time for our great city to reaffirm its commitment to equity and the vision so eloquently stated in Dr Kings "[I have a dream](#)" speech in 1963. His words have even more relevance today as our country faced an insurrection that invaded our Capital for the first time in our nation's history. This event should demonstrate to all Americans how fragile our Democracy is and that we must reaffirm as a nation what Lincoln said on the battlefield of Gettysburg during another insurrection that demonstrated the divisions in our country, "**We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain** - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

I have included Dr. Kings speech in this letter so that we can reflect on where we were in 1963 just prior to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, how far we have come and how far we have yet to go. Our country faced violence by those who would destroy our Democracy then and now. As a Country and as a City we have much work to do to remove the splinter of racism, that Slavery pierced into our nation's soul so long ago and that still infects our great Country today. The expansion of the role of the Equity and Human Rights Commission can help to remove the splinter, drain the infection, and enable us to finally heal.

Best regards,



Walter Larkins
American, Community Member, Black man, and Veteran

Attachment, "I have a Dream Speech" by MLK - 1963

I Have a Dream

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free; one hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination; one hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity; one hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land.

So we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was the promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note in so far as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now.

This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy; now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice; now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand's of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood; now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment.

This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content, will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the worn threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protests to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting

physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy, which has engulfed the Negro community, must not lead us to a distrust of all white people. For many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking the devotees of Civil Rights, "When will you be satisfied?"

We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality; we can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities; we cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one; we can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "For Whites Only"; we cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro in Mississippi cannot vote, and the Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

No! no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until "justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality.

You have been the veterans of creative suffering.

Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi. Go back to Alabama. Go back to South Carolina. Go back to Georgia. Go back to Louisiana. Go back to the slums and ghettos of our Northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream.

It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama — with its vicious racists, with its Governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification — one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low. The rough places will be plain and the crooked places will be made straight, “and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.”

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day.

This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with new meaning, “My country ’tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.” And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire; let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York; let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania; let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado; let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that.

Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia; let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee; let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi. “From every mountainside, let freedom ring.”

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

“Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.”

Long Beach as the most diverse city in the US has always taken a leadership role to achieve equity. 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 Staff, City Manager and City Council on best practices, and be on hand to provide accountability and thought partnership throughout the process.

I am proud to support this important first step in positioning the Human Relations Commission to provide oversight and accountability as the City begins implementing the Framework for Racial Equity and Reconciliation, and other programs and initiatives meant to create a more just and equitable Long Beach.