THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CULVER CITY EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY EQUITY AND
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 28, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Call To Order & Roll Call

Chair Renteria called the regular meeting of the Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee to order in the Garden Room at the Veteran Memorial Building at 6:01 p.m.

Members Present: Denice Renteria, Chair
Samia Bano, Member
Chaiya Jones, Member*
Ifunanyachukwu Nweke, Member
Rebecca Rona-Tuttle, Member
Carlos Valverde, Member

*Member Jones arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Members Absent: London McBride, Vice Chair
Haifaa Moammar, Member

Staff Present: Dana Anderson, Human Resources Director
Michelle Hamilton, Senior Human Resources and Equity Manager
Jeannine Houchen, Human Resources Equity Analyst
Monica Kilaita, Deputy City Attorney
Janee Prieto, Human Resources Technician

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Pledge of Allegiance

Member Nweke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Renteria invited public comment.

Jeannine Houchen, Human Resources Equity Analyst, called Louis Royale, Isaac Cobb, Melania Sowell and Paula Khan to speak, but no one responded to the names being called.

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Receipt of Correspondence

MOVED BY MEMBER BANO AND SECONDED BY MEMBER NWEKE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:	BANO, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES:	NONE
ABSENT:	JONES, MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on January 27, 2026

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BANO THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2026.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:	BANO, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES:	NONE
ABSENT:	JONES, MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR
ABSTAIN:	NWEKE

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Item C-2

Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting Held on February 24, 2026

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER NWEKE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2026.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: JONES, MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Order of the Agenda

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding an observation that the usual opportunity for staff and Members to provide comment is only reflected on the agenda at the end of the meeting this time; the ability for the Chair to move the agenda item forward; and Committee agreement to leave the agenda as written.

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Action Items

Item A-1

(1) Discuss the Status of the Arab American Heritage Month Celebration; and (2) Determine Next Steps as Deemed Appropriate

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding communication from Member Moammar that she would be unable to continue organizing the planned Arab American Heritage Month celebration event; cancellation vs. postponement; inclusion of the event in the Committee's current work plan; the need for a formal motion to cancel the 2026 celebration with the event eligible for reconsideration during the development of the 2026-27 work plan and subcommittee assignments; communication that occurred after the previous meeting that precluded the full body from formally acting on the matter; and Subcommittee Member perception of the communication as a cancellation.

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER NWEKE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: CANCEL THE 2026 ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION AND INCLUDE THE ITEM IN THE 2026-27 WORK PLAN FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: JONES, MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Item A-2

(1) Receive And File A Report from the 2025-2026 Equity and Human Relations Award Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (2) If So Desired, Discuss and Consider Approval of the Report's Recommendations; and (3) Determine Next Steps as Deemed Appropriate

Chair Renteria invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Carolyn Libuser was called to speak but was not present in person or online.

Jeannie Wisnosky Stehlin reported that the City seal was all that was visible for those participating online.

Chair Renteria read the statement on hate speech and meeting decorum.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin, former Cultural Affairs Commissioner from 2016 to 2024 and former Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) parent, expressed concern regarding the proposed nomination of New Earth and its leader, Yana Grammar, for an EHRAC award; discussed feedback from teachers and community representatives citing several matters of concern with the nomination; termination of New Earth's relationship with CCUSD with support from the Culver City Federation of Teachers; she indicated that New Earth was suing CCUSD and was the subject of a sexual harassment and wrongful termination lawsuit with a former employee in which a jury trial had been requested; discussed termination of New Earth's relationship with Los Angeles County related to fiscal concerns; parents who had received cease and desist letters from the organization; threats to First Amendment rights for speaking out; and she recommended that the Committee consider honoring only one organization in the current cycle and defer consideration of New Earth to a future year.

Carolyn Libuser was called to speak but was not present in person or online.

Melissa Sanders echoed concerns expressed by the previous speaker regarding the nomination of New Earth and Yana Grammer; indicated that she had personally received one of the cease and desist letters referenced by the prior speaker and characterized it as legally improper; stated that conduct alone should preclude recognition by the EHRAC; she referenced a letter that she had written to the Committee; discussed concerns about divisive language expressed by Committee Members regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; noted that many things could be true at the same time; asserted that statements calling for the destruction of a country or population were inconsistent with the Committee's mission of bringing communities together; and she urged the EHRAC to recognize only individuals and organizations that are acting in a genuinely community-minded and unifying manner.

Member Rona presented a report from the 2025-2026 Equity and Human Relations Awards Ad Hoc Subcommittee; discussed items that came up after the report was written; numerous emails received from the public regarding the nominations since the report was finalized; indicated that responses had been provided to each individual who wrote in; discussed the importance of feeling heard; descriptions of finalists included in the report using direct quotations from the nomination forms rather than independently written summaries; requested that Committee Members take time to read the report in full prior to discussion given the significance of the awards and the level of public interest; described the updated awards process; noted that following the Committee's vote, a shorter summary form would be completed by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and submitted to the City Clerk and Mayor for consideration; identified Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members as herself, Members Moammar and Valverde, and Chair Renteria; noted that the awards were expected to be presented in late spring or summer pending the Mayor's and City Clerk's scheduling; and wanted the Committee to be permitted to present recipients with medallions at the same City Council meeting at which proclamations are read.

Jeannine Houchen, Human Resources Equity Analyst, clarified that commendations would be presented, not proclamations.

Member Rona expressed appreciation for the clarification; discussed nominations received; the shorter marketing window; Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommendations; and she requested time for all Members to read the finalist descriptions before discussion.

Committee Members read the finalist descriptions.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that written correspondence and public comments made online received the same consideration as public comment made in person; support for pausing to re-evaluate the award selection process in light of public concerns received; public perception; the current vetting process; creation of an appropriate system of checks and balances; verification of claims; the work plan item; acknowledgement of the concerns; a recommendation to proceed with the current year's awards as planned; agendizing process improvements at the May meeting; readiness to vote on the item and support for proceeding while acknowledging the value of a broader process discussion at a future meeting; the need for a separate motion to pause the process; and previous Committee agreement to determine the recommendation for award recipients to the City Council at the current meeting.

Member Jones joined the meeting.

Monica Kilaita, Deputy City Attorney, discussed procedures; scope of the agenda item; the need for a motion for either direction; clarification that the awards process is discretionary and honorary in nature and no legal entitlement attaches to the nominations; she added that the City is not a party to any litigation involving any of the nominees and has not taken a position on any third-party litigation referenced in public comment; and she reported that legal concerns raised in correspondence to the City had been reviewed and no valid legal objections to the process were identified.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding attentiveness to the process; the inability to please everyone; reviewing procedures in response to public concerns; the two distinct concerns raised; concern with blaming someone for the language used by the nominators to describe them; examination of a person’s character and value they are bringing to the community to determine whether an award is merited; the possibility of adding a certification statement to the nomination form in future cycles; and staff indicated that research into standard practice for such additions would be needed and that the question could be addressed as part of the broader process discussion.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the two student finalists; admiration expressed for both nominees; consideration of the depth and breadth of documented work and its alignment with the Committee's focus on equity, mental health, and intercultural connection; and a suggestion that the nomination form be revised in future cycles to include guiding questions that elicit more standardized and detailed information from nominators

MOVED BY MEMBER NWEKE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER VALVERDE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: SELECT LEILANI AZAM AS THE STUDENT RECIPIENT OF THE 2025-26 EHRAC AWARDS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:	BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES:	NONE
ABSENT:	MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the two adult individual finalists; appreciation for the value of the work done by both nominees; alignment of work with prior Committee discussions on intercultural understanding; the difficult time for immigrants; affects to the community; voluntary work educating community members and school populations about their rights in relation to immigration enforcement; and recognizing work that is particularly meaningful at this time.

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER NWEKE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: SELECT SAMINE AHMADIA AS THE ADULT INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENT OF THE 2025-26 EHRAC AWARDS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding support for the business owner finalist, Jennifer Casper, owner of Village Well Books; Village Well Books as a pillar of the community; relevant programming on topics related to equity, race, history, and intercultural understanding; engagement with community organizations and high school students; curation of book selections that reflect the Committee's values around equity and human relations; involvement in ICE awareness programming; and the history of partnering with community groups on fundraising and educational events.

MOVED BY MEMBER NWEKE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER VALVERDE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: SELECT JENNIFER CASPER, OWNER OF VILLAGE WELL BOOKS, AS THE BUSINESS OWNER RECIPIENT OF THE 2025-26 EHRAC AWARDS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the two nonprofit executive director finalists; ineligibility of New Earth on the grounds that the organization's contributions must have occurred in 2025 per the award's published eligibility criteria, and that New Earth's relationship with CCUSD had been terminated in 2023; published eligibility language from the City's website confirming that nominees for the nonprofit award must be a leader of a nonprofit located in or that serves Culver City, and that contributions must have occurred in 2025; whether New Earth might still qualify on the basis of serving other Culver City residents outside the CCUSD context; the need for consistent application of the previously approved criteria;

clarification that criteria indicates organizations located in Culver City are eligible even if they do not serve people in Culver City; concern with public comment and correspondence received about New Earth; clarification that Culver City is not a party to any litigation involving any of the nominees and had not taken a position on any third-party litigation referenced in public comment; advice to base the determination on the nominee's qualifications and the award criteria rather than attempting to litigate third-party matters; consideration of public comment and correspondence received and filed in exercising discretion; the role of the Committee to select award recipients within its jurisdiction; and lack of full access to the relevant facts.

Member Jones indicated that, having missed the public comment, she would abstain on the item.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the remaining nonprofit finalist, Mass Liberation; the nomination submitted by an individual served by the organization; support for the organization's work in restoring a sense of personal value and belonging to a population that is frequently underserved; alignment of the work with the Committee's values around social justice, equity, and community healing; and confirmation that Mass Liberation serves Culver City residents and therefore meets the published eligibility criteria.

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER NWEKE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: SELECT MASS LIBERATION AS THE NONPROFIT RECIPIENT OF THE 2025-26 EHRAC AWARDS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, NWEKE, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR
ABSTAIN: JONES, RENTERIA

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that the Subcommittee is not dissolved until after the awards are presented.

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Item A-3

(1) Receive and File a Report from the Diversity Awareness Projects Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (2) Discuss and Consider Approval of the Report's Recommendations; and (3) Determine Next Steps as Deemed Appropriate

Member Valverde provided a report on the Diversity Awareness Projects Ad Hoc Subcommittee; discussed completion of the first article; permission provided by the Culver City Historical Society through an email rather than a signed document to use certain photographs; and use of photographs that are over 100 years old and may be in the public domain with no rights assigned to any party for those images.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the ability to use public domain photographs; preference for a formal signed authorization document; staff assistance to draft an authorization form based on prior examples; similar authorization needed for photographs related to the Sebastian Cotton Club article; plans to work with staff to begin building the diversity awareness website as part of the Committee's activity page on the Culver City website; and appreciation for the link provided in the report and the work done by Member Valverde.

Member Rona indicated that she had been working with the Gabrieliño-Tongva; discussed her engagement of a scholar associated with UCLA and LMU to review and assist with the draft article she was working on; reported that the original name of Ballona Creek prior to Spanish colonization was Guashna, and that a village of the same name was located on its bank; she noted that a link included in the Subcommittee report illustrates what the completed diversity awareness articles will look like; and she expressed enthusiasm for the format.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the status of the photographs and the four articles.

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY CHAIR RENTERIA THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT FROM THE DIVERSITY AWARENESS PROJECTS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the goal date for completion; progress being made; the intent to submit all articles at the same time; a suggestion to move up approvals to be one at a time to add to the webpage; approval already received for one article; work with staff to put up the first article; whether to provide the article and the accompanying photographs at the same time; stock images from the public domain that could be used; discretion of the Committee as to the rollout; creation of individual pages as the articles and photographs become available; and agreement to work with staff.

MOVED BY MEMBER RONA AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BANO THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: AUTHORIZE MEMBER VALVERDE TO WORK WITH STAFF ON THE DESIGN FOR THE FIRST DIVERSITY AWARENESS PROJECTS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ARTICLE ON THE WEBSITE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY CHAIR RENTERIA THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT FROM THE DIVERSITY AWARENESS PROJECTS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Item A-4

(1) Receive and File a Report from the Youth Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (2) Discuss and Consider

Approval of the Report's Recommendations; and (3) Determine Next Steps as Deemed Appropriate

Chair Renteria invited public input.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

Blaze Ferraro was called to speak but was not present in person or online.

Jeannine Houchen, Human Resources Equity Analyst, indicated that another person had signed up to speak online but did not indicate the item they wished to speak on, and they were no longer present online.

Member Valverde provided a report from the Youth Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Subcommittee consisting of himself, Chair Renteria, and Members Moammar and Jones; reported asking the City Council to amend the work plan to include the Youth Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Subcommittee's work; and indicated that City Council consensus was achieved to put the matter on a future agenda.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding next steps; the requirement that a staff report addressing specific questions be prepared prior to Council consideration of the work plan amendment; the role of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee in finalizing that report; outreach strategies for engaging Culver City youth, including the distribution of surveys through CCUSD and digital platforms, and the potential for focus groups and lunchtime activities at Culver City High School (CCHS); the need to consult with the City Attorney regarding legal requirements related to parental consent waivers for surveys and focus groups involving minors; the importance of designing outreach to also reach Culver City youth not enrolled in CCUSD schools by including parents and adults in focus group opportunities; providing refreshments; leveraging use of existing teen programs; Subcommittee research into youth advisory board models across California; best practices drawn from multiple municipal models; the absence of significant budgetary impact from the proposed activities; and potential use of funds previously allocated to the canceled Arab American Heritage Month event to offset costs associated with focus group activities such as refreshments; previous efforts of Mayor

Puza to solicit regular input from a youth advisory board; and positive feedback received from the public.

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY CHAIR RENTERIA THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: AUTHORIZE THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH STAFF ON NEXT STEPS, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SURVEYS, THE COORDINATION OF FOCUS GROUPS AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES, AND THE FINALIZATION OF A STAFF REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE PROPOSED WORK PLAN AMENDMENT.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY CHAIR RENTERIA THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Item A-5

(1) Receive and File a Report from the Peace Resolution Community Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (2) If So Desired, Discuss and Consider Approval of the Report's Recommendations; and (3) Determine Next Steps as Deemed Appropriate

Member Bano provided a report from the Peace Resolution Community Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee; discussed the draft community survey developed by the Subcommittee to gather public feedback on the City Council resolution expressing Culver City's dedication to peace and diplomacy in times of international conflict and the wise use of City resources; the proposed survey introduction; the full text of the resolution and survey structure; she noted that the survey consists of three questions corresponding to selected "whereas" statements from the resolution addressing federal-level diplomacy, fiscal transparency and local priorities; discussed community-based intercultural projects; inclusion of a fourth open-ended question inviting general comments; and she indicated that, upon Committee approval of the survey content, staff would create the electronic version of the survey on the City's platform.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the recommended character limit for the open-ended response field in question four; including considerations related to the volume of responses, readability, and the administrative feasibility of reviewing and categorizing free-text submissions; survey distribution; potential expansion of the outreach list to incorporate organizations represented by panelists at prior community conversations on the resolution; possible inclusion of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce; clarification that GovDelivery is a voluntary opt-in service whereby residents can provide their email address for notifications; and the City Attorney noted that contact information collected through other City applications cannot be used for this purpose.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the language of the survey questions, with a Committee Member noting that the text of the "whereas" statements could not be modified, as it reflects the verbatim language of the adopted resolution.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANO AND SECONDED BY MEMBER VALVERDE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (1) RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT FROM THE PEACE RESOLUTION COMMUNITY OUTREACH AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE; (2) APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO LIMIT THE FREE-RESPONSE FIELD FOR QUESTION FOUR OF THE SURVEY TO FIVE HUNDRED WORDS; AND (3) AUTHORIZE THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE TO WORK WITH STAFF TO CREATE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE SURVEY AND TO BEGIN DISTRIBUTING THE SURVEY AND COLLECTING COMMUNITY RESPONSES.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Item A-6

(1) Review EHRAC's Current Ad Hoc Subcommittees as of the January 27, 2026, Regular Meeting; (2) Dissolve Existing Ad Hoc Subcommittees Whose Objectives Have Been Met; (3) Fill Vacant Positions and/or Adjust Existing Ad Hoc Subcommittees, as Deemed Appropriate; and (4) In Accordance with the January 2026 Biannual Report Form New Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Appoint Members Thereto

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the purpose of the item to review active subcommittees, dissolve those whose objectives had been met, create new subcommittees as appropriate, and fill vacant positions; the scope and naming of a proposed new Public Events and Budget Ad Hoc Subcommittee for fiscal year 2026-27, including a suggestion to incorporate the word "projects" into the subcommittee's title or stated purpose to reflect the range of activities the Subcommittee has historically handled; Brown Act rules requiring ad hoc subcommittees to be temporary and limited in scope; a suggestion to incorporate language referencing events, projects, and corresponding budget allocations into the Subcommittee's description rather than requiring creation of a broader standing subcommittee; and involving input from staff or the full Committee body in addition to the ad hoc subcommittee in decisions.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members agreement to keep the Awards Ad Hoc Subcommittee active until the awards have been formally presented.

Committee Members identified the following ad hoc subcommittees as having fulfilled their objectives and eligible for dissolution: the Public Events and Budget Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2025-26, the February 2026 Community Conversation Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and the Arab American Heritage Month Celebration Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and agreed upon creation of a new Public Events and Budget Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

MOVED BY MEMBER VALVERDE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER NWEKE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: DISSOLVE THE PUBLIC EVENTS AND BUDGET AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26, THE FEBRUARY 2026 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AD HOC

SUBCOMMITTEE, AND THE ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding creation of the 2026-2027 Public Events and Budget Ad Hoc Subcommittee and agreement to add the word projects in the purpose for the ad hoc subcommittee.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANO AND SECONDED BY MEMBER VALVERDE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: CREATE THE PUBLIC EVENTS AND BUDGET AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, WITH A PURPOSE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS, PROJECTS, AND CORRESPONDING BUDGET ALLOCATIONS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding membership of the newly created Public Events and Budget Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2026-27, with Members expressing willingness to serve, and agreement to leave a position open for an additional volunteer from the full Committee.

MOVED BY MEMBER RONA AND SECONDED BY MEMBER NWEKE THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPOINT MEMBERS BANO, RONA AND VALVERDE TO THE PUBLIC EVENTS AND BUDGET AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Renteria invited public comment.

Jeannine Houchen, Human Resources Equity Analyst, indicated that Louis Royale, Isaac Cobb, Melania Sowell and Paula Khan had requested to speak but were not present in person or online.

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Items from Members/Staff

Jeannine Houchen, Human Resources Equity Analyst, reminded Committee Members to be mindful of communications with fellow ad hoc subcommittee members and encouraged contact during regular business hours with off-hours communications limited to email.

Monica Kilaita, Deputy City Attorney, added that communications conducted on personal devices remain subject to the California Public Records Act regardless of whether a City-issued device is used, and advised that use of City email for Committee-related communications is preferable for the integrity of the public record.

Member Valverde asked that reports from the Diversity Awareness Project Ad Hoc Subcommittee and the Youth Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Subcommittee be agendized for the next regular meeting, and he received clarification that dissolution of the Public Events and Budget Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2025-26 would not affect the Committee's access to budget funds previously allocated for the canceled Arab American Heritage Month Celebration event.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that the EHRAC budget remained intact; the role of the dissolved ad hoc subcommittee to assign estimated dollar amounts per event rather than to control or hold the budget itself; cost and timing of medallions for the 2025-26 EHRAC Award recipients; likelihood that medallion costs would fall into the next fiscal year; the need for the Awards Ad Hoc Subcommittee to coordinate the medallion creation process; City Council approval needed to move forward; and the requirement that a description of approximately 300 words per award recipient be prepared and approved by the full Committee prior to submission to the City Council and City Clerk.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding agendizing items for the July meeting; programming opportunities for fall 2026, including the recurring challenge of forming ad hoc subcommittees in July with insufficient lead time to execute programs in September; making use of the two months between May and July; programming in conjunction with United Against Hate Week; the potential to address program topics including Indigenous Peoples' Day, Latino Heritage Month, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and activities in conjunction with United Against Hate Week in October; the benefit of forming relevant subcommittees at an earlier meeting to provide adequate planning time; lack of urgent items on the May agenda; regular meeting dates for the EHRAC; the jam-packed City Council agendas; clarification that the purpose of the May meeting was for the event which has been postponed; the end of Member Jones’ term; appointment of a new Committee Member; regular presentation of the events and budget in July; the fact that the Committee used to have more meetings; repeating the same events vs. exploration of new ones; September as a good time for events; concern with missed opportunities to put things into motion; previous years when ad hoc subcommittees were done in April; items that would warrant agendizing for May; the approval process for reports; the different budget process being done this year; staff availability given concurrent obligations; acknowledgement of staff being stretched and the EHRAC falling short; vacant positions; ensuring quality initiatives and events; length of the proposed meeting in May; setting priorities; consideration of the awards and public events at the May meeting; feasibility of a June 2026 meeting; and agreement to accommodate a May meeting on May 12, 2026, with a two-hour time frame and a maximum of two agenda items with reports required to be submitted by 5:30 p.m. on May 6, 2026.

Committee Members reached consensus that the May 12, 2026 special meeting would include two agenda items: (1) the Public Events and Budget Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommendations for Fiscal Year 2026-27, and (2) the EHRAC Awards report, including the preparation of award recipient descriptions for submission to the City Council and coordination of medallion procurement, but not the awards process itself.

MOVED BY MEMBER NWEKE AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BANO THAT THE EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: SCHEDULE A MAY 12, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BANO, JONES, NWEKE, RENTERIA, RONA, VALVERDE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MCBRIDE, MOAMMAR

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:23 P.M., the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee adjourned to a meeting to be held on May 12, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.

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Dana Anderson
SECRETARY of the Culver City Equity and
Human Relations Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED

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Denice Renteria
CHAIR of the Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

_________________________	_________________________
Jeremy Bocchino CITY CLERK	Date