

Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee
Report from
Indigenous People's Day Celebration Ad Hoc Subcommittee
September 26, 2023

The members of the Indigenous People's Day Ad Hoc Subcommittee are Samia Bano, Haifaa Moammar and Rebecca Rona.

The original ad hoc subcommittee members were Haifaa Moammar and Rebecca Rona. During the August meeting, Samia Bano agreed to become a member.

The Indigenous People's Day Celebration is listed in the Committee work plan as taking part in October because in the states and municipalities in which Indigenous Peoples Day is a recognized holiday, it is held the second Monday of October, usually in place of Columbus Day.

During the first meeting, Haifaa and Rebecca discussed two options:

- A two-hour Indigenous People's Day celebration to be held Tuesday, October 10, 2023
- A 30-minute program to be held Monday, October 9, in the Council Chambers, immediately ahead of the council meeting. Indigenous Peoples Day is observed the second Monday of October (in certain states and municipalities.)

Neither will happen.

- The longer celebration will not occur October 10th because the Latino Heritage Month Celebration will take place that evening. The Latino Heritage Month Celebration would have taken place September 26. However, the City is holding a program about hate crime on September 26.

Staff reported at the August committee meeting that there are almost no dates available for new programming in October.

- The 30-minute program discussed by the ad hoc subcommittee will not occur, according to staff, because the city does not allow presentations of this length to be made immediately before council meetings.

A 30-minute interview with Angie Behrns, a fascinating and knowledgeable Tongva elder, was being planned. It would have been videotaped and presented either Monday the 9th or Tuesday the 10th. Rebecca spoke at length with a fine professional videographer and Culver City resident, Art Nomura, about participating in creating the video.

Samia and Rebecca discussed the option of holding a program to explore Native American culture and challenges this coming June, in 2024.

Another option is to have no program about Native Americans this fiscal year, but consider celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day in October 2024.

Rebecca has begun discussing with a local Native American the possibility that she or another Native American would accept a proclamation from the City about Indigenous Peoples Day, if the Council presents one again. Conceivably this committee could ask the Council to do so.