

A G E N D A

REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, May 13, 2021, 11:00 A.M.



COMMISSION ROOM, FIRST FLOOR
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, California

M. FAREED FARUKHI
Vice Chair

ADA BRICEÑO
Commissioner

AMY BUCH
Commissioner

TANYA DOBY
Commissioner

MIKE HAMEL
Commissioner

JANY LEE
Commissioner

JO-ANNE P. MATSUBA
Commissioner

ADEY NYAMATHI
Commissioner

DR. KERRY REYNOLDS
Commissioner

RABBI RICK STEINBERG
Commissioner

JENNIFER S. WANG
Commissioner

Executive Director
Norma Lopez

Clerk of the Commission
Jamie Ross, Deputy

*The Orange County Human Relations Commission. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Commission encourages your participation. If you wish to speak you may do so during Open Forum. To speak during Open Forum, press *9 following the Chair's invitation from the public to speak. Once acknowledged and prompted by the Chair or Clerk, you may begin to speak. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record prior to providing your comments.*

***Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, this meeting will be held by zoom. Members of the public may observe and address the meeting telephonically. To attend the meeting via teleconference please call: iPhone one-tap: US: 1 669-900-9128, 875 0434 9062# Passcode 562639 or +1 253 215 8782, 875 0434 9062# Passcode 562639**

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669-900-9128 or +1 253-215-8782 or +1 346-248-7799 or +1 301-715-8592 or +1 312-626-6799 or +1 646-558-8656 Webinar ID: 875 0434 9062 Passcode 562639 (once you enter this code, you should be automatically connected to the call; you will remain on the line until meeting begins).*
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504349062?pwd=S2pkdHZCeDZ6L3JFVGvQq3FQq2ZXQ09>

****In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the Clerk of the Board's Office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-2206****

A G E N D A

All supporting documentation is available for public review online at:
http://www.occommunityservices.org/oc_human_relations_commission and in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located in the Hall of Administration Building, 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., 10 Civic Center Plaza, Room 465, Santa Ana, California 92701 during regular business hours,
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

11:00 A.M.

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Opening quote/reflection
3. Monthly Summary of Commission Activities

OPEN FORUM

At this time members of the public may address the Commission on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission or Chair may limit the length of time each individual may have to address the Commission.

ACTION ITEMS: (Item 4)

4. Review, discuss and approve Goodwill Project nominations and timeline

DISCUSSION ITEMS: (Items 5 – 6)

5. Commissioner authorization requests for events
6. Ethnic Studies class debate

HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION: (Item 7)

7. Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

INFORMATION ITEMS: (Items 8 - 11)

8. Board Resolution ad hoc update
 - a. Proposal
 - b. Stakeholder meetings
9. Commission staff reports
 - a. New Hate Crimes Prevention Coordinator – Nhi Nguyen
 - b. CAHRO event: Legislation Bill RE: Hate Crimes 5/25 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.
10. Update from OC Chiefs & Sheriff

A G E N D A

11. OCSD Interfaith Council update

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA BUILDING

Commissioners to suggest agenda items and/or topics for upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING:

June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting, 11:00 A.M.



DATE: Thursday, May 13, 2021

LOCATION: Zoom

TIME: 11:00 AM

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Call the Meeting to Order | Fareed Farukhi |
| 2. Opening Quote/Reflection | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 3. Overview of Monthly Summary of Commission Activities | Tanya Doby |

OPEN FORUM: *Members of the Public may address the Commission on human relations issues*

ACTION ITEMS

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 4. Review, discuss and approve Goodwill Project Nominations & Timeline | Jo-Anne Matsuba |
|--|-----------------|

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 5. Commissioner Authorization Requests for Events | Fareed Farukhi |
| 6. Ethnic Studies Class debate | Amy Buch |

HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 7. Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month | Mary Anne Foo |
|---|---------------|

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 8. Board Resolution Ad-Hoc Update
a. Proposal
b. Stakeholder Meetings | Fareed Farukhi |
| 9. Commission Staff Reports
a. Meet our new Hate Crimes Prevention Coordinator – Nhi Nguyen
b. CAHRO Event: Legislation Bill RE: Hate Crimes 5/25 from 1-2:30 P.M. | Commission Staff |
| 10. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff | Chief Mike Hamel |
| 11. OCSD Interfaith Council Update | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 12. Announcements from Commissioners | All Commissioners |
| 13. Adjourn Commission Meeting | Fareed Farukhi |



Orange County Human Relations Commission

MISSION: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: April 2020

FY JUL 20 - JUN 21 Commission Activities Matrix		
CONTRACT ACTIVITY	Goal	To-Date
A. Monthly HRC meetings	12	10
B. HRC Annual Report	1	1
C. Police-Community Reconciliation cases	20	28
D. Community-Police Meetings	4	3
E. Chief's Advisory Boards & Sherriff's Interfaith Council	8	19
F. Community Outreach & Relationship Building meetings	40	68
G. Police/Diverse Community Dialogues	2	4
H. Hate Crime Report & Network Meeting	1	1
I. Support to hate crime victims	8	71
J. Outreach efforts (speeches, presentations, etc.)	10	11
K. Community training on intergroup relations topics	4	3
L. Annual Awards program	1	0
M. Participate in community-based/outreach symposiums	2	1

Police-Community Relations

- Commission staff attended two Tustin & Anaheim Police Chief Advisory board meetings this month.

Intergroup Relations & Relationship Building

• Relationship Building, Outreach, & Presentations

- Commission staff participated as a panelist at a Seal Beach PD event on the topic of Anti-Asian hate.
- Commission staff presented Hate Crime data for faculty at Irvine Valley College.
- Staff supported Commissioners in conducting 4 Community Stakeholder Input meetings that drew in approximately 163 participants.
- Commission staff conducted a community dialogue exploring racial identity and bias.

- Hate-motivated incidents, Community Conflict, & Crisis Response/Meetings

Hate-Motivated Incidents in Orange County

APRIL 2021



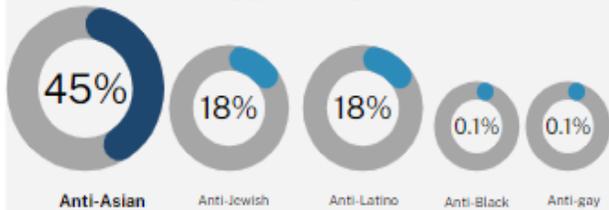
11 Total Hate-Motivated Events Reported

HATE CRIMES VS. HATE INCIDENTS

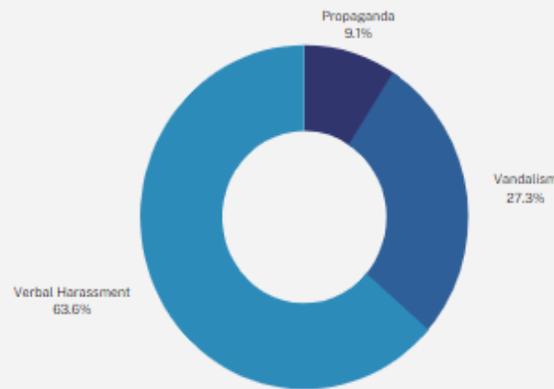


Out of the 11 hate-motivated events, zero hate crimes and eleven hate incidents were reported

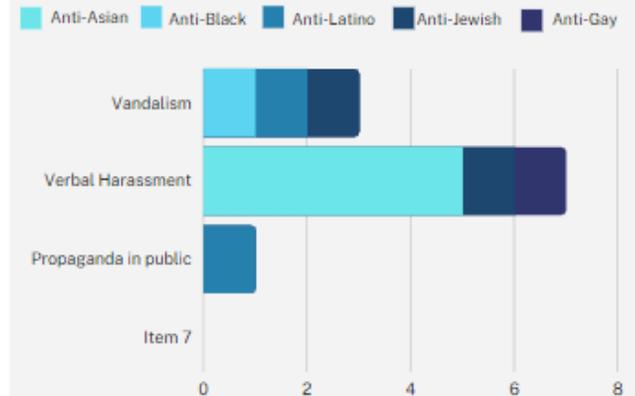
SENTIMENT



TYPE OF OFFENSE



COUNT OF TYPE BY OFFENSE AND MOTIVATION



Source: OC Human Relations Commission

Goodwill Program Nomination Timeline Proposal

The OC Human Relations Commission will recognize Goodwill Awardees on a quarterly basis. Awardee shall be recognized at the OC Human Relations Commission meeting and presented a signed Certificate of Recognition by the current Board of Supervisors Chair.

- Set-up [an online form for submissions](#) – emailed submissions still acceptable
- Send out media alerts & announcements for nominations during “open for nominations” period
- Multiple awardees per quarter possible

2nd Quarter (Apr– Jun) – Joe Baldo, Higher Ground

- Committee will be open to receiving nominations from 1/1 until 2/28.
- Committee will review nominations, choose awardee, coordinate to receive BOS certificate, and have awardee at March meeting
- Announce Goodwill Awardee at the Human Relations Commission in March

JOE BALDO NOMINATION

When I think of Joe Baldo, I see someone who is on fire with the need to make a difference in our community by mentoring youth. Joe’s welcoming energy is contagious and can be felt throughout the Higher Ground campus. With Joe’s leadership and guidance, what started out as an after school sports program has developed into sports, music, crafts, digital arts, family resources, gardening and food distribution. An example to all of us, Joe compassionately shares the needs of the community and has a way of drawing others in to give their support. Joe shows genuine respect and love to the families of Higher Ground. The smiles he shares lets each child know they are special. Passionate about helping others, Joe is truly changing lives and giving youth an opportunity to succeed. A spiritual person, Joe credits God for the success of Higher Ground. There is no end to Joe’s vision and generosity. I feel Joe Baldo is an excellent candidate for the Good Will Project Award.

Jo-Anne Prophete Matsuba

Higher Ground Youth & Family Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by Joe Baldo in 2012, although the inspiration for the organization came much earlier through the grassroots efforts of Joe and friends.

After a successful career in the video/film production and corporate communications industry, Joe believed it was time to give back to the community. After searching for the type of work he felt needed to be done, he began volunteering at Juvenile Hall in Orange, CA. His role was to visit with teenage detainees, offering a listening ear and a caring heart to their life stories. The impact these youth had on Joe was life-changing. The teens there opened the door for Joe to realize the harsh realities they faced, and unfortunately, the sad consequences they'd have to live with the rest of their lives.

After three years of listening, learning, praying and ministering to this population, Joe knew he was being called to work with the youth where they needed help the most - back in their neighborhoods after they were released. He knew that they needed so much more help and support than what was available to them, and the earlier the better.

Once he saw that many of the young men and women were destined to remain in the system without effective local programs in place, Joe was determined to engage with local youth in Anaheim and Santa Ana. He was adamant that he find a way to offer them a chance to keep them from being in these situations in the first place and to provide them with

the opportunity to experience a supportive, enriching environment that aimed to see them succeed now and well into the future. Joe knew these kids needed a community safety net and he was fiercely determined to create one.

Today, Higher Ground has a dedicated group of board members and a growing volunteer and intern base. By partnering with a wide range of organizations, Higher Ground is able to identify youth at the elementary, middle, and high school level who are "at-risk", and offer them a positive support system, in a friendly, safe environment.

3rd Quarter (Jul – Sep) – Bill Bracken, Bracken’s Kitchen & Deidre Pujols, Open Gate International

- Committee will be open to receiving nominations from 4/1 until 5/31.
- Committee will review nominations, choose awardee, coordinate to receive BOS certificate, and have awardee at June meeting
- Announce Goodwill Awardee at the Human Relations Commission in June

NOMINATIONS

Bracken’s Kitchen

Bracken’s Kitchen is a 501(c)(3) organization based in Orange County California. Founded in 2013 our mission is simple: Through food recovery, culinary training and our community feeding program we are committed to recovering, re-purposing and restoring both food and lives.

The heart of who we are can be found in a statement first uttered in 1957 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr; “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”

At the core of our mission is a deep commitment to our nonprofit charity partners, business and professional supporters, volunteers, donors and employees. Our relationship with each and every one of these groups is as important to us as those we feed.

Bracken’s Kitchen is the inspiration of Bill Bracken, a nationally renowned chef with over 35 years of experience in the hospitality business. After graduating with honors from the Culinary Institute of America, Bracken began what was to be a long and successful career with a number of acclaimed hotels and restaurants including the Peninsula Beverly Hills and the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach. He eventually opened the DivBar in Newport Beach, a way to connect his love of good food with an entrepreneurial spirit, and later became involved in a variety of nonprofit work, including volunteering his services to the Orange County Rescue Mission as a regular guest chef. It was Bracken’s work at the mission that reconfirmed his concerns about the significant levels of food insecurity that exist within Orange County, and he set about to find a way to leverage his talent, experience and connections to make a difference and feed the hungry.

Open Gate International

Open Gate International was founded by Deidre Pujols in 2016. She had visited several countries and during her travels, learned of the devastating emotional, social and economic impact wrought by human trafficking and other exploitive industries. These experiences deeply affected Deidre and she was determined to get involved and make an impact. After speaking to many organizations already filling roles through rescue, rehabilitation and other services, she found that a critical element of survivor support was missing: Job training and workforce integration. Out of this, OGI was born.

Our program is now operating in four international countries and is accredited by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation.

4th Quarter (Oct – Dec) – Mark Desmond, High Hopes

- Committee will be open to receiving nominations from 7/1 until 8/31.
- Committee will review nominations, choose awardee, coordinate to receive BOS certificate, and have awardee at September meeting
- Announce Goodwill Awardee at the Human Relations Commission in September

NOMINATION

1. High Hopes Head Injury Program started in 1975, and was the first non-profit charitable brain-injury rehabilitation program in the country. Dedicated to helping the brain-injured community recover their lives. Every week someone starts walking again, or learn anew skill that they lost.

2. The major obstacle we deal with every day is that because our students/patients are adults, they often get forgotten by society and even their families. We are constantly working to help our students become accepted and functional in everyday life.

3. Major conflicts are happening all the time. Here is one example: Oshunbunmi's life is a miracle. Oshunbunmi Samuel went skydiving for the first time in Pennsylvania. He went up in a plane like hundreds do each day across the country. He was strapped to his instructor, as all do when they jump for the first time. On the way down not just one, but all three parachutes did not open and they fell 12,000 feet. Oshunbunmi survived! Oshunbunmi Samuel has a great attitude and is excited about his improvements here at High Hopes! He said, "High Hopes is a happy place where people get better." He is making great improvements everyday! Oh, and by the way he just started assisted walking.

4. Unfortunately we haven't resolved any issues when it comes to hate crimes.

5. Mark Desmond is the role model for High Hopes. It's his unwavering dedication and hope that makes this possible. I asked him, "How do you do it everyday, doesn't it get depressing?" He simply replied, "I get to see miracles happen all the time. It's always worth it."

6. High Hopes is one big act of courage, heroism, and compassion for others. We have successful people you lost everything courageously taking steps literally and figuratively to get back their life. We have heroes working with the disabled and because of their good deeds, we are helping a portion of society that too often gets left behind. Summery: I'm not 100% sure we fit your criteria to a tee, but High Hopes is definitely one of the "Good Ones" in Orange County and deserved to be recognized.

EDUCATION

Ethnic Studies Class Debate Continues in OC as Los Alamitos School District Presents Course Textbook

BY **HOSAM ELATTAR**

Apr. 28, 2021



Los Alamitos high school on Dec. 11, 2020. Credit: JULIE LEOPO, Voice of OC

Parents, teachers and students in Orange County continue debating over whether or not school districts should teach U.S. history through perspectives from people of color through ethnic studies courses.

It's an issue some school districts around the county have been debating: how U.S. history is being taught and what's being left out.

The debate over an already approved ethnic studies elective class sparked again in public comments at Los Alamitos Unified School District **Board meeting** on Tuesday, when board members were presented with potential teaching materials for the course.

A Los Alamitos High School student said his history textbook barely mentioned Cesar Chavez, while Dolores Huerta and the Tulsa Race Massacre received zero mention at all.

“We are a culturally diverse community. In order for us to understand each other and where we’ve come from, we must be given the opportunity to learn about each other’s stories, experiences and shared history,” the student said during public comment.

Many students in the district spoke in favor of the ethnic studies course and some echoed similar comments about their textbooks.

Some students of color called out the racism they experienced at the district in their comments.

Others were concerned with critical race theory, which they say negatively depicts the country and creates a victim mentality.

But some academics have said the course paints a more complete picture of history and that critical race theory has been mischaracterized.

[\[Read: Orange County Parents And Students Confront Ethnic Studies; School Districts Look to Potentially Expand Offerings\]](#)

Some parents took issue with social justice standards created by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which were previously presented to the board and said they are not against the elective class.

“We have heard and seen many stories of schools ruling out this curriculum that focuses on hating your own race, blaming others for your problems and hating America today for problems in the past,” one parent said. “We should never start putting a premium on the melanin content of people’s skin.”

Superintendent Andrew Pulver said the standards are guidelines for teachers addressing difficult conversations happening in classrooms.

“They can support administrators, depending upon the ways that they take a look at them, in making schools more inclusive, more equitable, more safe and hopefully can have areas where they can reduce acts of bullying, prejudice and minimizing conflict,” he said.

Pulver addressed some of the claims circulating around their ethnic studies elective course they approved earlier this year.

“(Ethnic Studies) is an interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, and indigenous people with an emphasis on experiences of people of color in the United States,” Pulver explained. “It deals with often overlooked contributions made by people of color to many areas of government, politics, the arts, medicine and economics.”

The district has also responded on their website.

The deputy superintendent Ondrea Reed introduced the textbook and all supplemental material the district hopes to use in their **ethnic studies elective class**.

Some of the materials include a textbook from different ethnic perspectives, an article about media stereotypes of Latinos, a video on Little Manilla in California and details of the Indies under Spanish colonialism.

The textbook and materials will be on preview for over 30 days online and at the district office.

Across California, there is a huge reckoning with how U.S. history is being taught in classrooms and what is being left out.

There is a **petition** circulating online calling for the Fullerton Joint Union High School District to create an ethnic studies high school graduation requirement.

Regardless of if the district takes action or not, an ethnic studies course could become a high school graduation requirement in California, under a proposed **state assembly bill**.

The **Santa Ana Unified School District** was the first in the county to create such a requirement following police brutality protests globally last year. **In 2015, the district’s board first voted to introduce ethnic studies to the curriculum.**

A handful of local districts already offer this class as an elective, while others are looking to add it to their curriculums by creating a new course and potentially spending money on training for teachers and textbooks.

Los Alamitos Unified School District’s Board of Education is set to vote on the textbook and supplemental materials for the ethnic studies elective class at their June 1 meeting.

Hosam Elattar is a Voice of OC Reporting Fellow. Contact him @helattar@voiceofoc.org or on Twitter @ElattarHosam.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US!

We look forward to continuing the conversation on combating hate in Orange County

-OC Human Relations Commission

