

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

October 8, 2020, 11:00 A.M.



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

**MICHAEL REYNOLDS**  
Chair

**M. FAREED FARUKHI**  
Vice Chair

**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

ATTENDANCE: All Members Present (all members participated via Zoom)

ABSENT: None

PRESENT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Norma Lopez (participated via Zoom)  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION Jamie Ross, Deputy Clerk (participated via Zoom)

*The Orange County Human Relations Commission is an independent advisory body, and our positions do not necessarily reflect the positions of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.*

1. Call the Meeting to Order  
**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:01 A.M. BY CHAIR M. REYNOLDS; THE CLERK CALLED ROLL AND CONFIRMED A QUORUM**
2. Opening quote/reflection  
**COMMISSIONER NYAMATHI OPENED WITH A QUOTE FROM "THE MONK WHO SOLD HIS FERRARI" BY ROBIN SHARMA**

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

3. Monthly Summary of Commission Activities  
**PRESENTED**

### **OPEN FORUM**

Felicity Figueroa – Orla Re.: Attended listening session; OC Sheriff Department; protests in Yorba Linda.

Pat Davis – Oral Re.: Attended listening session; death of Kurt Reinhold; protests in Yorba Linda; those who are unhoused; communities of color.

**ACTION ITEMS:** (None)

**HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION:** (None)

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** (Item 4)

4. Hate Crime/Hate Incident online reporting form  
**DISCUSSED**

**INFORMATION ITEMS:** (Items 5 - 8)

5. Listening Session ad hoc update  
**PRESENTED**
6. Commission staff reports  
a. “To Know Better” Anti-Hate Campaign  
b. Hate crime report virtual event  
**PRESENTED**
7. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff  
**NO REPORT**
8. OCSD Interfaith Council update  
**NO REPORT**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Doby – Oral Re.: Contacted by a member of the community regarding her position on the Human Relations Commission. Asked staff to provide information on what she can do outside of a Commission meeting.

Chair M. Reynolds & Commissioner Steinberg – Oral Re.: Asked staff to provide information to Commissioners regarding what they can do as members of the Human Relations Commission when outside of a Commission meeting.

Commissioner Farukhi – Oral Re.: Reapplying for position on Commission as an appointee of the City Selection Commission.

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

Commissioner K. Reynolds – Oral Re.: Update on Good Will Program.

Chair M. Reynolds – Oral Re.: Thanked staff for their hard work.

**ADJOURNED:** 11:59 A.M.

\*\*\* KEY \*\*\*

### *Left Margin Notes*

1 Amy Buch	A = Abstained
2 Tanya Doby	X = Excused
3 M. Fareed Farukhi	
4 Mike Hamel	N = No
5 Jany Lee	C.O. = Commission Order
6 Jo-Anne P. Matsuba	
7 Adey Nyamathi	Reso = Resolution
8 Dr. Kerry Reynolds	Ord = Ordinance
9 Mike Reynolds	
10 Rabbi Rick Steinberg	
11 Jennifer S. Wang	

*(1st number = Moved by; 2nd number = Seconded by)*

/s/

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MICHAEL REYNOLDS  
Chair

/s/

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Jamie Ross, Deputy  
Clerk of the Commission



**Commissioners**

Michael Reynolds, Chair  
 Fareed Farukhi, Vice Chair  
 Amy Buch  
 Dr. Adey Nyamathi  
 Dr. Kerry Reynolds  
 Jany Lee  
 Jennifer S. Wang  
 Jo-Anne P. Matsuba  
 Chief Mike Hamel  
 Rabbi Rick Steinberg  
 Tanya Doby

**DATE:** Thursday, October 8, 2020

**LOCATION:** Zoom

**TIME:** 11:00 AM

**AGENDA**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Call the Meeting to Order                            | Michael Reynolds     |
| 2. Opening Quote/Reflection                             | Dr. Adey Nyamathi    |
| 3. Overview of Monthly Summary of Commission Activities | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 4. Hate Crime/Hate Incident Online Reporting Form | Norma Lopez |
|---|-------------|

**HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION**

None

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 5. Listening Session Ad-Hoc Update     | Fareed Farukhi       |
| 6. Commission Staff Reports            | Commission Staff     |
| a. "To Know Better" Anti-Hate Campaign |                      |
| b. Hate Crime Report Virtual Event     |                      |
| 7. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff   | Chief Mike Hamel     |
| 8. OCSD Interfaith Council Update      | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 9. Announcements from Commissioners    | All Commissioners    |
| 10. Adjourn Commission Meeting         | Michael Reynolds     |



# 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: SEPTEMBER 2020

### FY JUL 20 - JUN 21 Commission Activities Matrix

CONTRACT ACTIVITY	Goal	To-Date
A. Monthly HRC meetings	12	3
B. HRC Annual Report	1	0
C. Police-Community Reconciliation cases	20	7
D. Community-Police Meetings	4	1
E. Chief's Advisory Boards & Sherriff's Interfaith Council	8	4
F. Community Outreach & Relationship Building meetings	40	20
G. Police/Diverse Community Dialogues	2	0
H. Hate Crime Report & Network Meeting	1	0
I. Support to hate crime victims	8	28
J. Outreach efforts (speeches, presentations, etc.)	10	2
K. Community training on intergroup relations topics	4	2
L. Annual Awards program	1	0
M. Participate in community-based/outreach symposiums	2	0

#### Police-Community Relations

- Commission staff responded to 2 Police Community Relations (PCRP) cases. One was referred for mediation and the other is pending.
- Commission staff attended the Anaheim Police Chief Advisory board meeting this month.
- Commission staff met Sheriff Barnes to discuss joining a workgroup to develop a POST curriculum focused on extremism and extremists' groups with key subject matter experts.

#### Intergroup Relations & Relationship Building

- **Hate-motivated incidents, Community Conflict, & Crisis Response/Meetings**
  - A total of 5 hate-motivated events reported this month (1- Hate Crime & 4 – Hate Incidents), which two COVID-19 related.

Hate Crime	Anti-Scientology	Vandalism
Hate Incident	Anti-Chinese	Hate Speech Online
Hate Incident	Anti-Middle Eastern	Hate Speech in Person
Hate Incident	Anti-Hispanic	Hate Speech Online
Hate Incident	Anti-Indian	Hate Speech in Person

- **Relationship Building, Outreach, & Presentations**

- Commission staff attended the CORE-Police Relations meeting to support Chief Hamel with Q&A from audience.
- Commission staff observed the San Clemente protest after shooting and death of homeless black man after received several inquiries from the community.
- Commission staff reached out to Sheriff's Interfaith Council, Housing as A Right organization, and Human Affairs Committee in San Clemente after several inquiries from the police-involved shooting.
- Commission Director served as a panelist in California Association of Human Relations Organizations virtual event.

#### Training

- Commission led the panel portion of the OC Sheriff's Academy training for the LD 42 Cultural Diversity class for 47 new recruits.

## Hate Crime / Hate Incident Report

This confidential online form will be submitted to the Hate Crime division of OC Human Relations for review upon completion. Please only report hate crimes or hate incidents that have occurred in Orange County.

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### 1) Reporter Information (Your Information)

Name  First  Last

Phone Number###-###-####

Email \*

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### 2) Incident Information

Date of Incident \*  MM /  DD /  YYYY 

City in which incident occurred \*

Location of incident (click all that apply) \*

School  University  Place of Worship  Private Residence  Public Park or Facility  Public Street  Public Transit  Business or Store  Online  Other

If you checked "other" above, please indicate where the incident took place



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### 3) Target/Victim Information

Target/Victim's Name  First  Last

Target/Victim Phone Number###-###-####

Primary Language

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## 4) Description of Hate Incident/Hate Crime and include the bias motivation

*Bias motivation includes any words or actions that show the motivation of the perpetrator was based on prejudice or hate.*

Required \*

Attach a Photo

Attach a Photo

Attach a Photo

Type of Hate or Discrimination (check all that apply) \*

Verbal/Name calling  Workplace Discrimination  Vandalism/Graffiti  Refused Service (Store or Business)  Refused Transportation (Taxi, Ride-Share, Bus)  Physical Assault  Other

If you checked "other" above, please describe in a few words, the type of hate or discrimination you experienced.

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## 5) Demographic Information of Victim/Target

*Please fill in the following fields, particularly if you think they are relevant to the hate crime or incident.*

Victim's Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry

Victim's Religion or Faith

Victim's Sexual Orientation

Victim's Disability

Victim's Gender

Victim's Gender Identity

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## 6) Suspect/Perpetrator Demographics

*Please fill in the following fields, if you have this information*

Suspect's Race

Suspect's Gender

Suspect's Age

Signs that Suspect is a member of a hate group

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## COVID-19 Discrimination/Hate

*Please answer the following question if you think the hate incident or crime was COVID-19 related.*

Suspected Reasons for COVID-19 Discrimination or Hate

Your Ethnicity  Your Race  Your Gender  Your Language  Your Religion   
The food you were eating  Clothing or face-mask you were wearing  Other

If you checked "other" above, please describe in a few words, what you think motivated the discrimination or hate

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## Consent

*By submitting this form, you give OC Human Relations permission to use your story for publication or use in our materials. We will not share your contact information or name without your written consent.*

I agree

Would you like us to contact you? \*

Yes  No

# Asian Americans still being targeted in COVID-related hate incidents

OC Human Relations plans a community meeting to address concerns.

By [THERESA WALKER](#) | [thwalker@scng.com](mailto:thwalker@scng.com) | Orange County Register  
PUBLISHED: October 1, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. | UPDATED: October 1, 2020 at 8:18 a.m.

The disturbing uptick in COVID-related hate incidents directed at Asian Americans — and clashes that have arisen during demonstrations following the police killing of George Floyd — will be keys to a virtual community meeting to be led next week by the Orange County Human Relations Commission.

Since March, when Californians began to feel the social and economic impact of the [coronavirus pandemic](#), OC Human Relations and other groups have tracked a rise in [local attacks on Asian Americans](#). Most reports involved verbal assaults or shunning, and they've been classified as hate incidents or non-criminal acts of hateful expression.

One of 60 COVID-related hate cases that [OC Human Relations](#) has tracked so far this year was an alleged hate crime — a category that's considered more severe than a hate incident or a hate expression — and the apparent victim in that case was a Black man, according to information provided by Norma Lopez, the commission's executive director. In that incident, OC Human Relations describes how a man riding a bus reported being coughed on and spat on for wearing a face mask. The man reported that his assailant carried a small bat, used the N-word, and said "get out of my face before I break your kneecaps."

But Lopez said that between January and April, 60 percent of the hate activity tracked by OC Human Relations was related to the pandemic and targeted Asian Americans.

Orange County is home to the nation's third largest Asian American population, with a little over one in five of the county's nearly 3.2 million residents identified as Asian, according to 2019 Census Bureau population estimates.

"We are still seeing COVID-related incidents, but not at the same rate," Lopez said, adding that in the month of September, two of five hate incidents reported to the commission were COVID-related.

The targeting of Asian Americans in Orange County also is reflected in reports to the [Stop AAPI Hate](#) website, an initiative undertaken by the Los Angeles-based Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council. The council's executive director, Manjusha P. Kulkarni, said

this week that 63 incidents were reported to Stop AAPI Hate by individuals in Orange County between March 19 and Aug. 26.

Nearly one-third of the Orange County incidents (20 reports) cited by Stop AAPI involved hate directed at Korean Americans, and close to 29 percent, or 18 incidents, were reported by people of Chinese descent. Vietnamese Americans were the target of eight incidents, or 12.7 percent.

### **Ugly words**

Considering that the pandemic is far from over, and that hate incidents and crimes typically are “grossly” under-reported, Lopez said the recently slowed rate of COVID-related hate incidents reported to OC Human Relations “doesn’t mean much because we are still in the middle” of the pandemic.

The virtual listening session scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 6, will provide a public forum to address such incidents. But it also will include discussion of broader tensions between police and protesters at demonstrations over the past few months in support of Black Lives Matter. Those demonstrations have included heated clashes between protesters and counter-protesters, including, in some cases, [people being struck by cars speeding through crowds](#).

One of the first Covid-related hate incidents in Orange County involved [two teenage girls at Bolsa Grande High in Garden Grove](#) who created a video record of themselves laughing and shouting “coronavirus” at student performers who wore Vietnamese outfits during a March 6 cultural assembly. In video that circulated on social media, the girls, both described as Latina, also could be seen harassing another Asian student and making fun of a traditional Asian hat.

What happened at Bolsa High attracted national attention, but other incidents are occurring outside of public scrutiny. These include the bulk of COVID-related reports compiled by an OC Human Relations hate prevention specialist, such as:

- A Korean man who coughed at a fast food restaurant and was told by the man standing behind him, “Because of you I’m getting sick, go back to your country.” The report says the incident nearly ended with a physical altercation.
- An Asian Man who walked into a grocery store and was told “F... Chinese.”
- An Asian family who found fliers outside their home and on their car that read, “You guys are Chinese Viruses. Get out of our country!!! Stay away from our kids. Stay away from our pets.”
- A Facebook post sent to an Asian person that included the statement “you guys are so inhumane, disgusting, contaminated, filthy f ...”

Advocates suggest the phrase “China virus” — favored currently by some people in positions of authority when referring to the coronavirus pandemic, including President

Trump, who used the term as recently as Tuesday night's presidential debate — could spark incidents.

"There's been a lot of discussion about the importance of getting elected officials to ensure the language they are sending to the community is inclusive and does not perpetuate hateful rhetoric," Lopez said.

She added that public officials using such language send a signal that the mindset behind it is acceptable.

### **Join the conversation**

Called "Fear Driven Hate: Understanding Our Implicit Biases & the Community Experience," the Zoom gathering on Tuesday is scheduled for 5 to 6:30 p.m. and up to 300 people can attend. Registration is free at [forms.gle/T5S6irAcpLt9Zdbf6](https://forms.gle/T5S6irAcpLt9Zdbf6). The last day to sign up is Friday, Oct. 2.

The first part of the Zoom session, led by Cal State Fullerton criminal justice professor Christine L. Gardiner, will focus on how subconscious ideas and attitudes — so-called "implicit bias" — are formed over time and can affect behavior. Lopez said such biases can surface during times of fear and panic and help fuel hateful rhetoric and action.

Attendees will break into small group sessions to talk about any hate-induced personal experiences they've had and what needs to happen in the community to bring about healing. Lopez said another listening session is likely in January, perhaps to discuss solutions that grow out of Tuesday's gathering.

"Hopefully we'll get ideas about how to engage and work together."

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