



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022, 5:30 P.M.

To Listen Via Telephone: (720) 707-2699
Webinar ID: 843 3844 9426

To View Via Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84338449426>

To Provide Public Comment: You may submit written public comment via email to aferguson@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting.

CHERI THOMAS, Chairperson
Quinault/Yurok

CHRISSIE CASTRO, Vice Chairperson
Navajo

KIMBERLY MORALES JOHNSON,
Secretary
Gabrieleno Tongva

SHAWN IMITATES-DOG, Treasurer
Lakota

ANDREA N. GARCIA, M.D., Commissioner
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara

ALLISON HICKS, Commissioner
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner
Saginaw Chippewa

ROBERT JUDKINS, Commissioner
Apache

RANDALL MURPHY, Commissioner
Choctaw/Lakota

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

JOSEPH A. QUINTANA, Commissioner
Kewa Pueblo

TED TENORIO, Commissioner
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON, Commissioner
Acjachemen

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

RENE' WILLIAMS, Commissioner
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director
Tlingit/Athabaskan

THIS MEETING WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, COMMISSIONERS AND EMPLOYEES AS PERMITTED UNDER STATE LAW

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. INVOCATION**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. COMMISSIONER & STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 6. ACTION ITEMS**
 - 6.1. Review and take possible action adopting the May 17, 2022 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes
 - 6.2. Review and take possible action adopting a letter to the Board of Supervisors informing them about ongoing issues with the transition of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors and requesting support to be moved to the Department of Arts & Culture

7. CARE FIRST, COMMUNITY INVESTMENT (CFCI) ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

- 7.1 CFCI Updates, Joey Williams (LANAIC Lead Designee - CFCI Advisory Committee) & Tencha Espino (LANAIC Alternate Designee – CFCI Advisory Committee)

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- 8.1. Updates on Transition to Executive Office
- 8.2. LANAIC Human Relations Consultant recruitment updates
- 8.3. County State & Federal Legislative Agenda Updates

9. CHAIR’S REPORT

- 10.1 2022 Native American Heritage Month Metro TAP Card Updates

10. COMMITTEE & AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 10.1. Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group

11. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-595-4827 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: www.lanaic.lacounty.gov, aferguson@lanaic.lacounty.gov, or 213-595-4827



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2022**

The May 17, 2022, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Holding Meetings via Teleconference

Chairperson Thomas read the following teleconference statement allowing for the LANAIC meeting to take place via teleconference:

Welcome everybody, before we begin I have a brief announcement; this teleconference meeting is in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 361 and the Board of Supervisor's action taken at their April 26, 2022 meeting and subsequently renewed every 30 days to continue meeting by teleconference to limit the spread of Covid-19 and to promote social distancing where possible.

Invocation

No invocation was provided

Roll Call

Present: Chair Cheri Thomas
Treasurer Shawn Imitates-Dog
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Allison Hicks
Dawn Jackson
Robert Judkins
Randall Murphy
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Joseph Quintana
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon
Mark Villasenor
Rene' Williams

Absent: Vice Chair Chrissie Castro
Secretary Kimberly Morales Johnson

Quorum was met.

Staff Present: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2022**

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners and staff provided brief introductions.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Action Items

Review & Approval of the Unapproved April 19, 2022, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Ortega Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the unapproved April 19, 2022 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YES | Thomas, Imitates-Dog, Garcia, Hicks Jackson, Judkins, Murphy, Ortega Jr., Quintana, Tenorio, Toyon, Villasenor, Williams |
| NO | |
| ABSTAIN | |
| ABSENT | Castro, Morales Johnson |

Care First, Community Investment Advisory Committee Report

CFCI Updates, Joey Williams (LANAIC Lead Designee - CFCI Advisory Committee)

Joey Williams, LANAIC Designee – CFCI Advisory Committee, provided the monthly Care First Community Investment updates.

Presentations

Watson Consulting Group – Updates on American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness, Lisa Watson (Principal) & Crystal Coyazo (Project Manager)

Crystal provided an update on the work Watson Consulting Group on behalf of LA County to address American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness.

LA City/County of LA Just Transition Taskforce, Kristen Pawling (County of LA Sustainability Program Director)

Kristen shared with the LANAIC about the LA City/County of LA Just Transitions Taskforce task. She specifically requested feedback regarding how the Taskforce plans to conduct tribal consultation.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2022

Executive Director's Report

Updates on Transition to Executive Office

Alexandra shared that the transition to Executive Office has been incredibly difficult. While WDACS continues to provide ongoing administrative support through June 30, 2022 very little has been transitioned to EO staff to assume responsibilities on July 1, 2022 and there remains many outstanding questions about who will be providing these critical administrative functions. Additionally, EO does not have experience with administering Federal funding or Care First Community Investment funding which is raising concern with the LANAIC SGB Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-aside funder, State of California Department of Community Services & Development.

It has come to light that through analysis of the budget transferred from WDACS to EO that the reclass of the Executive Assistant NAIC item to an Executive Director NAIC item was never funded. WDACS Finance was directed by CEO to not include the LANAIC in Recommended Budget because they would be moved mid-Fiscal Year. Executive Office was informed by CEO that they could not include the LANAIC in Recommended Budget because they were not officially housed within their department. Through the transfer of the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB from WDACS to EO the S&S appropriation was swept to partially cover the S&EB shortfall as a result of the unfunded reclass of the Executive Director position. The Executive Director of the LANAIC was never engaged by WDACS Finance in their analysis of the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB budget and what needed to be transferred nor how the funding should be allocated when received by EO. This has resulted in LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB being left with fewer resources after the transition than we had before including the loss of the \$8,000 annual discretionary budget, \$2,000 for County Counsel, \$8,000 for Auditor Controller and nearly \$31,000 in administrative support including program monitoring.

Updates on LANAIC Human Relations Consultant vacancy

Alexandra shared that after reviewing various aspects of the Human Relations Consultant item including the incongruent experience requirements, lack of promotional pathway and previous challenges with the County running successful recruitments she determined that the Management Analyst item was a more appropriate item for the current needs of the LANAIC and the LANAIC Self Governance Board. She shared that the swap out of the Human Relations Consultant item for a Management Analyst item was included in the Executive Office's Critical Unmet Needs request. Depending on if the Board approves this ask at their Budget meeting in late June, rejects the request entirely or defers it to Supplemental Budget in October will determine the timeline and next steps to fill the LANAIC vacancy. Alexandra shared she will continue to provide updates as they become available and that she is doing everything she can to get this vacancy filled as the additional support is vital to support the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB and the various directives of the Board.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2022

Updates on County State & Federal Legislative Agenda

Alexandra shared that she anticipates receiving directions from County Legislative Affairs regarding the 2022 process to submit additions to the County State and Federal Legislative Agendas and will be updating the LANAIC.

Discussion Items

Developing a content strategy for LANAIC website and social media channels

Commissioner Quintana shared that the LANAIC Communications Committee would be convening to discuss the development of this strategy. At current Commissioner Quintana and Jackson are the two committee members.

Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group

Commissioner Garcia provided brief updates about the Working Group. Sharing that the Working Group still meets bi-weekly to share about agency updates as well as to respond to the emergent needs of the community.

2022 Elections AD Hoc Committee

Commissioner Williams shared that the 2022 Elections AD Hoc Committee is working to solidify the timeline for this year's Community Elected Commissioner elections and updating election packet materials.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No general comments on non-agenda items were provided.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

No announcements or future agenda items were shared.

Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of May 17, 2022 was adjourned by Chairperson Thomas at 7:30 p.m.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

510 S. VERMONT STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020
(213) 738-3241 • Contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

SHEILA KUEHL

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

June 21, 2022

Supervisor XX
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Concerns Related to the Transition of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and LANAIC's Self Governance Board to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisor XX,

My name is Cheri Thomas, and I am the Chair of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), a member of the LANAIC Self Governance Board (SBG) and Chair Holly Mitchell's appointee. As you are aware the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB were transitioned from the Department of Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services (WDACS) to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors (EO) on January 16, 2022. I am writing you to express concerns the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB have about our recent transitions to EO.

Shortly after our arrival at the EO it became clear that the transition was that in name only and that what occurred leading up to that point was an exit strategy. Our move in January 2022 constituted a change in the position of the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB in the County's organizational structure. Per the request of the LANAIC and staff, WDACS continued to provide administrative and operational support to ensure that EO staff could appropriately onboard the administration and operational structure of the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB through June 30, 2022.

Prior to our organizational move in January at no point were our operations examined to determine if the EO was equipped to support us and which support staff would be assuming roles and responsibilities supported by WDACS administrative staff. The responsibilities of the transition of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB have fallen on to our one staff member, Executive Director Alexandra Valdes. Over the past few months, it has become clear that at current EO does not have the staffing capacity to support the needs and operations of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB. The shortfalls of this transition process have not only put a strain on our staffing but also have put the LANAIC SGB in jeopardy of losing long-standing federal grant funding.

Throughout the past 5 months the following information has come to light. The reclass of the Executive Assistant NAIC item to an Executive Director NAIC item was never funded. WDACS Finance was directed by CEO to not include the LANAIC in Recommended Budget because they would be moved mid-Fiscal Year. Executive Office was informed by CEO that they could not include the LANAIC in Recommended Budget because they were not officially housed within their department. Through the transfer of the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB from WDACS to EO the S&S appropriation was swept to partially cover the S&EB shortfall resultant of the unfunded reclass of

the Executive Director position. The Executive Director of the LANAIC was never engaged by WDACS Finance in their analysis of the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB budget and what needed to be transferred. All of this has resulted in LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB being left with fewer resources after the transition than we had before including the loss of our \$8,000 annual program budget, \$2,000 for County Counsel, \$8,000 for Auditor Controller and nearly \$31,000 in administrative support including program monitoring.

Prior to the transition Epifanio Peinado, the Supervising Administrator, presented at two LANAIC meetings in the fall of 2021 as well as met separately with Alexandra, former Chair Chrissie Castro, and former Vice Chair Rudy Ortega Jr. During those presentations it was touted that the EO would provide the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB with a more prominent location in the County's organizational structure which would enhance access for internal and external stakeholders and that County's Office of Commission Services housed within EO is well versed in supporting the work of these types of bodies. Unfortunately, what was perhaps gained by being more centrally located has been negated by the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB demotion within our home department's organizational structure. At WDACS our Executive Director had a direct reporting relationship with the department head which enabled her to utilize her position to effectively advocate for the needs and concerns of our two bodies and the County's American Indian and Alaska Native community. At EO our Executive Director no longer has a direct reporting relationship with the department head and is reliant on multiple layers of management to communicate the needs and concerns of our bodies and communities. This increased bureaucracy has created additional and unnecessary burdens and roadblocks. Additionally, at current Commission Services is not providing any supports to the LANAIC or LANAIC SGB.

We are seeking your support to ensure that our budget is made whole and that our noted critical unmet needs are met so that we are appropriately resourced to carry out the Board's direction and serve our community. Furthermore, we are seeking your support to transfer the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB from the Executive Office to the Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture.) We are confident that Arts and Culture possesses both the needed operational and administrative infrastructure and a culture that will ensure our work thrives.

Sincerely,

(INSERT SIGNATURE)

Cheri Thomas, Chairwoman
Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

(INSERT SIGNATURE)

Kimberly Johnson Morales, Chairwoman
Self Governance Board

cc: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
Department of Arts and Culture