



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, 6:30 PM

Meeting Location: County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration
Sybil Brand Room 372
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Listen Via Telephone: (669) 444-9171
Webinar ID: 879 3711 8848
Webinar Passcode: 103068

To View Via Web:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87937118848?pwd=d1D06hXp4qHCSeBOXW0IPammaiCo2O.1>

Webinar Passcode: 103068

To Provide Public Comment: You may submit written public comment via email to contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please note "LANAIC Public Comment" in subject line. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting. Public comment received after this time will be added to the next regular Commission meeting.

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Chairperson
Lakota

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Vice Chairperson
Fernandeño Tataviam

DENISE ESCOTO, Treasurer
Northern Cheyenne

CAROLINE BHALLA, Commissioner
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

CHRISSIE CASTRO, Commissioner
Navajo

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

VIVIAN GARCIA, Commissioner
Cherokee

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner
Saginaw Chippewa

BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH, Commissioner
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

MONA MORALES RECALDE, Commissioner
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF, Commissioner
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO, Commissioner
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON, Commissioner
Acjachemen

RENE WILLIAMS, Commissioner
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director
Tlingit/Athabaskan

-
1. CALL TO ORDER
 2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 3. ROLL CALL
 4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS
 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1. Adopt absentee excuses
- 6.2. Approve the August 20, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes
- 6.3. Select a Secretary to fill the current vacancy and serve until January 19, 2026
- 6.4. Approve letter to Supervisor Hilda Solis requesting free access for Native American residents to County parks and museums during 2024 Native American Heritage Month

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1. Discussion of draft letter to Board of Supervisors regarding the *Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities (Item No. 8, Agenda of November 7, 2023)*
- 7.2. Discuss the LANAIC co-hosting an American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness research symposium on November 21, 2024 in partnership with the USC Homelessness Prevention Institute
- 7.3. Discussion of draft FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to the Board of Supervisors
- 7.4. Discussion of draft FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass

8. PRESENTATIONS

- 8.1. *Overview of Community Programs, LA Health Services – Housing for Health, Office of Diversion and Re-Entry and Harm Reduction Division (Angel Martinez, Jeanette Ban West, Jessica Reyes, Jocelyn Vilchez)*

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 9.1. General Updates

10. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 10.1. Self Governance Board
- 10.2. Homelessness Committee
- 10.3. 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee
- 10.4. FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee
- 10.5. Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

11. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF GLENDA AHHAITYY

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Location: Hall of Administration, Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, LA, CA 90012

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, 6:30 PM**

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-738-3241 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: www.lanaic.lacounty.gov, contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov, or (213) 738-3241

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow rectangular background. The signature reads "Shawn Imitates Dog".

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024

The August 20, 2024, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was at County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner John Only A Chief provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Caroline Bhalla
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Vivian Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
Bryce Lewis-Smith
Rudy Ortega Jr.
John Only A Chief
Ted Tenorio
Rene' Williams

Absent: Chrissie Castro
Rich Toyon (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director
Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy Department of Arts and Culture
Megan Moret, Board Liaison & Special Assistant Department of Arts and Culture

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners provided brief introductions including their names, appointing office and tribal affiliation.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024**

Public Comment

Commissioner Chrissie Castro provided public comment for Item 7.1. See attached letter.

Action Items

6.1 Adopt absentee excuses

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde to adopt Commissioner Rich Toyon’s absentee excuse for the August 20, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Villasenor, Escoto, Bhalla, A. Garcia, V. Garcia, Jackson, Lewis-Smith, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Tenorio, Williams
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Castro, Toyon

6.2 Approve the July 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Ortega Jr. to approve the unapproved July 16, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Villasenor, Escoto, Bhalla, A. Garcia, V. Garcia, Jackson, Lewis-Smith, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Tenorio, Williams
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Castro, Toyon



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024**

6.3 Select the 2024 Native American Heritage Month Honorees for Spirit of Community, Spirit of Tradition and Spirit of Creativity

Roll call votes were taken for the 3 NAHM honoree categories (the vote breakdown is below.) Chief Anthony Morales was selected as the 2024 Spirit of Tradition Honoree, Cynthia Ruiz was selected as the 2024 Spirit of Community Honoree and Kenny Ramos was selected as the 2024 Spirit of Creativity Honoree.

2024 Spirit of Tradition Honoree					
	Walter Ahhaitty	Roy Twobears Delarosa	Chief Anthony Morales	Abstain	Absent
Imitates-Dog	X				
Villasenor			X		
Escoto			X		
Bhalla		X			
Castro					X
A. Garcia		X			
V. Garcia			X		
Jackson			X		
Lewis-Smith			X		
Morales-Recalde			X		
Only A Chief			X		
Ortega Jr.			X		
Tenorio		X			
Toyon					X
Williams		X			



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
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2024 Spirit of Community Honoree						
Commissioner	Julian Mendoza	Cynthia Ruiz	Jan Sampson	Danielle Tobey	Abstain	Absent
Imitates-Dog		X				
Villasenor		X				
Escoto		X				
Bhalla		X				
Castro						X
A. Garcia				X		
V. Garcia		X				
Jackson		X				
Lewis-Smith		X				
Morales-Recalde		X				
Only A Chief			X			
Ortega Jr.						
Tenorio				X		
Toyon						X
Williams				X		

2024 Spirit of Creativity Honoree					
Commissioner	Eric Hernandez	Julian Mendoza	Kenny Ramos	Abstain	Absent
Imitates-Dog			X		
Villasenor			X		
Escoto			X		
Bhalla			X		
Castro					X
A. Garcia			X		
V. Garcia			X		
Jackson			X		
Lewis-Smith	X		X		
Morales-Recalde					
Only A Chief			X		
Ortega Jr.			X		
Tenorio			X		
Toyon					X
Williams			X		



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024

Discussion Items

7.1. Discussion on the July 16, 2024 Presentation on the Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities

Chairperson Imitates Dog provided context and framing for the discussion item. He shared he wanted the Commission to have an opportunity to freely express themselves related to last month's presentation provided by County staff on the *Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*. Additionally, he shared that since the August meeting he has had additional conversations outside this body with offices but not with County staff.

Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the August presentation, the impact of the report back and the report back process as well possible next steps the body could take including formalizing their position in a letter to the Board of Supervisors which could include their own analysis and observations.

Staff from the Offices of Supervisor Solis and Hahn were present and provided context and clarity throughout the discussion.

Chair Imitates Dog and Commissioners Castro, Ortega Jr and Jackson agreed to draft the letter.

Commissioner Castro was absent from the meeting but participated in this discussion and provided a letter for the record, which is located under public comment.

7.2. Discussion on draft letter to Supervisor Hilda Solis requesting free access for Native American residents to County parks and museums during 2024 Native American Heritage Month

Chair's Report

8.1 Recap of Peter Pan at Hollywood Pantages Theatre

Chair Imitates Dog provided a brief recap about the Peter Pan show at the Pantages. He shared that it was a beautiful event and show and that he was very proud of playwright Larissa FastHorse and the actors. He shared that Pantages were wonderful hosts and that they look forward to working with LA's Native community more.

Executive Director's Report

Alexandra provided a recap of her August 15, 2024 meeting with Judy Delgado, the American Indian Education Consultant with the California Department of Education's Integrated Student Support and Programs Office. At this time Judy was unsure if they would be able to host additional community listening sessions to hear from AIAN students and parents about their



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024

experience in public school as a result of a State travel freeze. Alexandra shared they agreed to stay in contact in case Judy and her team could travel to LA County for a listening session.

Commissioners provided the following locations as possible sites of a listening session: California Native Vote Project, LAUSD and the LA River Center.

Alexandra also shared that the County has provided ARDI Equity Funds to The Music Center (TMC) to produce Indigenous Peoples Day programming with the Chapter House. She shared that TMC would love recommendations from the LANAIC on vendors for the events and also offered a table for the LANAIC to distribute materials. She also shared that TMC offered to come present at a future LANAIC meeting if the Commission wanted that.

Committee & Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

10.1 Self Governance Board

SGB Chair Dawn Jackson reminded the Commission that the [Community Services Block Grant Community Needs Assessment survey](#) is live and requested that Commissioners encourage community members to take the brief survey.

10.2 Homelessness Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Andrea Garcia reminded the Commission that the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative is hosting a Community Listening Session with BIPOC Advisory Groups on August 22, 2024. She shared that this session was an opportunity to share with CEO HI about what you want them to fund and about your experiences. She encouraged commissioners to attend and make their voices heard.

Dr. Garcia also reminded the Commission about the recent release of the [Advancing Indigenous Housing Rights in Los Angeles: International Best Practices and a Legal Framework](#) and shared that the UCLA partners will likely be giving a talk on the report at a Housing Policy Symposium with USC in November. She also requested that Commissioners help share it with their appointing offices and that the Homelessness Committee would be happy to write talking points for commissioners if that would be useful.

Megan Moret offered to make a toolkit for the report for Board deputies. Dr. Garcia accepted the offer.

10.3 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee

Chair Imitates Dog reminded the Commission that LA City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez is hosting this year's NAHM in chambers presentation on Friday November 1, 2024.

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde requested to the Chair that she could provide updates on Indigenous Peoples Day. She shared that Councilwoman Eunnisses Hernandez is hosting this year's in chambers Indigenous Peoples Day present on October 11 and an event at Sycamore Park on October 12 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. She also shared the Chair Imitates Dog,



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Commissioner Ortega Jr and her have a meeting with the Councilwoman's Office on Monday, August 26, 2024.

10.4 FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

No report was provided.

10.5 Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc

No report was provided.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Chair Imitates Dog shared a personal update.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

None.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Imitates Dog shared that the next meeting of the LANAIC will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 6:30 pm at the Sybil Brand Room 327 in the Hall of Administration. He adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

DRAFT

August 20, 2024

Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
3175 W. 6th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

As a long-serving member of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), I feel compelled to share my thoughts on some critical issues currently under discussion. Having served our community on this Commission for over 16 years, I have seen firsthand the importance of our work and the impact we have on the lives of Native American peoples in Los Angeles.

I want to express my strong support for the proposals to establish a Tribal Affairs Office within Los Angeles County and to increase staffing to better serve our community. These measures are essential for ensuring that our voices are heard, our needs are met, and our sovereignty and rights are respected within the framework of county governance.

However, I must also voice my concern regarding any critical references to the City of Los Angeles that have arisen in recent discussions. The relationship between the City and County is crucial to the effectiveness of our Commission. Any attempt to undermine this collaboration could be detrimental to our mission and to the communities we are dedicated to serving. It is imperative that we maintain a united front in our advocacy efforts and continue to foster positive relations with both city and county officials.

Additionally, I am strongly opposed to any proposals that suggest separating or reconstructing the composition of our Commission. Since its inception in 1976, the LANAIC has operated with integrity, consistency, and a deep commitment to the community. The current structure has allowed us to build trust and establish meaningful relationships that would be jeopardized by any restructuring. Our Commission's ability to represent the voices of Native American peoples relies on the stability and continuity of its members.

It is also critical that our work continues to be guided by the principles of self-determination and the human rights of Native American peoples. Our right to self-governance must be respected, especially in our dealings with city and county governments. These principles are foundational to our Commission's advocacy efforts and should remain at the core of our mission.

In closing, I urge all of us to support the establishment of a Tribal Affairs Office and increased staffing while standing firm against any efforts that would disrupt the integrity or composition of our Commission. Let us continue to work together to ensure that the self-determination and human rights of Native American peoples are upheld in all our endeavors.

Please also allow me to provide feedback directly regarding the county representatives that joined our July meeting. This feedback addresses both written reports and verbal statements regarding the current status of the commission in terms of composition, affiliation and compliance.

1. Objection to Reconstituting the Indian Commission Composition

- Undermining Established Trust and Relationships: Reconstituting the Commission's composition threatens to dismantle over four decades of established trust, collaboration, and advocacy that have been vital in addressing the needs of Native American peoples in Los Angeles. The current structure was intentionally designed to reflect the voices and concerns of our community, and altering it now would only serve to weaken our collective impact.

- Ignoring the Commission's Historical Success: The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission has a long history of successful advocacy and policy work. Proposals to reconstitute the Commission suggest a disregard for the achievements we have made and an underestimation of the complexities and nuances of representing Native American interests.

2. Objection to Detaching from the City of Los Angeles

- Disregarding Crucial City-County Collaboration: The suggestion to detach from the City of Los Angeles is shortsighted and fails to recognize the importance of a strong, unified approach to advocating for Native American issues. The collaboration between the City and County has been a cornerstone of our effectiveness, and any move to separate would undermine the progress we have made.

- Risking Fragmentation of Advocacy Efforts: Detaching from the City would fragment our advocacy efforts, making it more difficult to address the needs of Native American peoples across both jurisdictions. Such a separation would likely lead to a loss of influence and resources, diminishing our ability to effect meaningful change.

3. Objection to Claims of Non-Compliance

- Misrepresentation of Commission's Work: The assertion that the Commission has been out of compliance for 38 years is not only misleading but also disrespectful to the dedication and hard work of the Commissioners over the years. This claim diminishes the significant contributions the Commission has made to advancing the rights and welfare of Native American peoples in Los Angeles.

- Lack of Context and Understanding: The County staff's claim fails to consider the unique challenges and evolving nature of the Commission's work. Compliance should be assessed with an understanding of the cultural, historical, and social contexts that have shaped our community's needs and the Commission's response.

4. Objection to County Staff's Approach

- Diminishing and Paternalistic Attitude: The tone and approach taken by County staff in these suggestions have been diminishing and paternalistic, implying that the Native American community cannot govern its own affairs or determine what is best for its people. This attitude is not only disrespectful but also contradicts the principles of self-determination that are central to our community.
- Out of Touch with the Native American Community: The suggestions made by County staff demonstrate a clear lack of understanding of the Native American community's needs, values, and priorities. By proposing changes without meaningful consultation or engagement with the community, the staff have shown that they are out of touch with the realities faced by Native American peoples in Los Angeles.
- Failure to Engage in Genuine Dialogue: Rather than working collaboratively with the Commission and the Native American community, the County staff have attempted to impose changes unilaterally. This top-down approach is contrary to the principles of partnership and mutual respect that should guide our interactions.

Requests

- Demanding Respect and Partnership: The Native American community and the Commission deserve to be treated with respect and as equal partners in any discussions about our future. I ask that the commission call on the County to withdraw elements of their report and verbal comments that suggest otherwise, and instead engage in genuine dialogue with the Commission to address any concerns in a manner that honors our self determination and contributions.
- Preserving the Commission's Integrity: I ask the commission to urge the County to respect the current structure and composition of the Commission, recognizing that it has been instrumental in serving the Native American community effectively for decades. Any changes should be made with the full involvement and consent of the Commission and the community it represents.

Thank you for your consideration of my feedback, and I thank you for your continued dedication to our community.

Sincerely,



Chrissie Castro (Diné)
Commissioner, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission



Secretary Nominations

The below LA City/County Native American Indian Commissioners were nominated by another LANAIC commissioner via email following the August 20, 2024 LANAIC Meeting. The commissioner selected by the LANAIC through a roll call vote will fill the current Secretary vacancy and serve with the rest of the Executive Committee until January 19, 2026.

The duties of Secretary are as follows:

- The Secretary shall work with the Executive Director to record the minutes, and maintain records of acts, and reports of the Commission and Executive Committee meetings.
- The Secretary shall be responsible for notification of action for nonattendance.
- In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Secretary shall exercise the power and perform the duties of the Chair.

Secretary Nominations

- Commissioner Bryce Lewis-Smith
- Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde



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MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

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Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

RENE' WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

September 17, 2024

Honorable Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District
500 W Temple St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Solis,

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (Commission). We would first like to extend our appreciation to you for authoring the Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) board motions in recent years and using them as an opportunity to celebrate the Commission's selected NAHM honorees and further your commitments to LA County's American Indian and Alaska Native community.

Since you have authored the past NAHM motions over the last several years, we anticipate that you will author the motion declaring NAHM this year. Should you choose to author the 2024 NAHM motion we would like to request that you consider the inclusion of language granting free access for Native American residents to County parks and museums during the month of November.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Shawn Imitates Dog, Chairperson
Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
3175 W. 6th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90020
September 17, 2024

[Recipient's Name]
[Recipient's Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Dear [Recipient's Name],

As members of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), we are writing to formally express our position regarding the July 16, 2024, report supporting the establishment of the Office of Tribal Affairs. While we strongly support this initiative and the associated recommendation to increase staffing to better serve Native American communities in Los Angeles, we must respectfully reject other elements of the analysis and proposals contained in the report.

The creation of the Office of Tribal Affairs is an essential step in ensuring the proper representation and inclusion of our community in county governance. It is critical for advancing tribal sovereignty and addressing the unique needs of Native peoples in Los Angeles. The staffing proposal is another vital component, as it directly impacts the Commission's capacity to engage effectively in the complex issues that face our community. We stand united in our advocacy for these measures, which will enhance our ability to serve Native American peoples in the region.

However, we must express our deep concerns with other recommendations in the report, as well as verbal presentations made by county staff during LANAIC meetings regarding the report, that particularly relate to reconstituting the Commission and detaching from the City of Los Angeles. These recommendations overlook the long history of collaboration and trust we have built with the City, which has been foundational to our advocacy efforts and to the success of the Commission's work since its inception in 1976.

Objection.to.Reconstituting.the.Commission's.Composition

Reconstituting the Commission threatens to dismantle over four decades of established trust and collaboration, which has been vital in addressing the needs of Native American peoples in Los Angeles. The current structure was intentionally designed to reflect the voices and concerns of our community. Any alteration would undermine our collective impact and disregard the successes the Commission has achieved over the years.

Objection.to.Detaching.from.the.City.of.Los.Angeles

The suggestion to detach from the City of Los Angeles is shortsighted and fails to acknowledge the importance of a unified approach to addressing Native American issues across both jurisdictions. This collaboration has been a cornerstone of our effectiveness, and any move to sever this relationship would only weaken our ability to advocate for the needs of our communities and dilute the progress we have made.

Misrepresentation.of.the.Commission's.Compliance.and.History

The report also contains misleading statements regarding the Commission's compliance and historical functioning. We strongly object to the characterization that the Commission has been out of compliance for decades. These claims fail to recognize the cultural, historical, and contextual nuances that have shaped our work and the challenges we face. Furthermore, such assertions diminish the significant contributions the Commission has made to advancing the rights and welfare of Native American peoples in Los Angeles.

Call.for.Genuine.Partnership.and.Respect

We urge you to reconsider these proposals and engage with us in meaningful dialogue. It is essential that any changes to the structure or function of the Commission be made in full consultation with LANAIC and the Native American community we represent. Our right to self-governance and self-determination must be respected as we continue to build on our legacy of service to the Native peoples of Los Angeles. As part of our recommendation, we would like any county staff interfacing or reporting on the LANAIC to take an Indian 101 training in order to have a basic understanding of the unique history and issues facing Native American people in Los Angeles.

In closing, we reiterate our strong support for the establishment of the Office of Tribal Affairs and the staffing increases that will support its mission. We remain committed to working with the City and County in a collaborative and respectful manner to ensure that the voices of Native American peoples are heard and that our rights are upheld.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shawn Imitates Dog
Chair, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission



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Acjachemen

RENE' WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

October 15, 2024

Honorable (Insert Supervisor's Name)
Supervisor, (Insert Number) District
500 W Temple St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor (Insert Name)

I am sending this budget request letter on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). We appreciate the opportunity to formalize our budget requests for the County of Los Angeles' FY25-26 budget.

At the May 18, 2021 LANAIC meeting the body adopted a resolution recommending that the County create an Office of Tribal Affairs. The need for this type of office has been uplifted by local tribal leaders and members of the AIAN community in numerous County-led processes. We request that the Board allocates funding for the creation of this critical office.

On September 20, 2023 the LANAIC transmitted letters to you and your colleagues on the Board of Supervisor's requesting a sustainability plan to build on the great work of the "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness" Board Motion (October 2019). The LANAIC also uplifted this request in our FY24-25 budget request letter submitted on October 17, 2023. Unfortunately, this critical work remains unfunded. We respectfully request that you support funding in the FY25-26 budget for a dedicated position within CEO Homelessness Initiative to ensure that the County of Los Angeles continues to prioritize fighting American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness.

At the May 21, 2024 LANAIC meeting the body unanimously adopted a letter requesting that that the County of Department of Arts and Culture allocate funding and qualified resources to support the development of a new website for the LANAIC. The LANAIC website is a key communication tool with the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community and public, plays a pivotal role in disseminating information, shares County and Commission services and events, and highlights LANAIC accomplishments. The outdated design and functionality of our current website hinders our ability to effectively communicate with and engage AIAN community members. We request that the Board allocates funding for the LANAIC to develop a new website.

Thank you for considering the LANAIC's FY25-26 budget requests.

Sincerely,

Shawn Imitates Dog, Chairperson
Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

DRAFT



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

VIVIAN GARCIA
Cherokee

DAWN JACKSON
Saginaw Chippewa

BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR.
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

RENE' WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

October 15, 2024

Mayor Karen Bass
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Bass,

I am sending this budget request letter on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). We appreciate the opportunity to formalize our budget requests for LA City's FY25-26 budget.

On September 20, 2023 the LANAIC transmitted a letter to you, as well as to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, requesting a sustainability plan to build on the great work of the "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness" County Board Motion (October 2019). The LANAIC also uplifted this request in our FY24-25 budget request letter submitted to you on October 17, 2023. Unfortunately, this critical work remains unfunded. We respectfully request that you support funding in the FY25-26 budget to fund, in partnership with the County, a dedicated position within the LA County CEO Homelessness Initiative to ensure that LA City prioritizes fighting American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness.

Thank you for considering the LANAIC's FY25-26 budget requests.

Sincerely,

Shawn Imitates Dog, Chairperson
Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director